هكذا من الأصل

JORDAN TIMES

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Spanish army general sacked

ADRID, March 20, (R). — A Spanish army general s sacked today as Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez took ps to curb military dissent over the lifting of a 38-ar-old ban on the Communist Party. Brig. Gen. Manuel uarez Zalba was dismissed as head of the Army Mi-try's Secretariat, the Official Gazette announced. In-med sources said Brig.-Gen. Alvarez had sent out a cument to army commanders accusing the govern-nt of failing to advise the army beforehand of its cision to legalise the Communists. The Army Minister, -Gen. Felix Alvarez Arenas, later issued a circular ying he had not authorised the document.

Kidnapped F.M. faces death

SAN SALVADOR, April 20 (R). — The Salvador government was today debating whether to accept guerrilla demands for the release of political prisoners in order to save the life of the kidnapped foreign minister. Official sources said the cabinet was meeting in emergency session to decide whether to release the 37 prisoners whose freedom the guerrillas were demanding in exchange for the life of the minister, Senor Mauricio Borgonovo Pohl. The guerrillas kidnapped him as he was driving to work without bodyguards yesterday morning and later delivered a statement to news media in which they threatened to kill him within an unspecified period if their demands were not met.

Israeli army sets up new para-military West Bank settlement

AVIV, April 20 (Agencies) Israeli army unit took police station in the oc-West Bank yesterday to a new Jewish settlement the military command ere today.

site is near the village sha, some seven kms. in-rab territory from Israel's before the 1967 Middle ar, when the region was ed.

first it will become a ilitary settlement where ldiers will carry out nor-my tasks as well as cul-g the land, but the gove-t has allocated 15 million pounds (£940,000) to co-the site into a civilian se-nt too.

ol children in two Pal-n refugee camps on the Bank today staged brief strations in protest aga-raeli settlements in the as unrest continued for urth successive day in ea.

rity forces moved in and up a demonstration at near Nablus, while you-testers in a camp near lah were persuaded to ish fires of motor tyres ad lit and to disperse ully.

or Elias Freij of Beth-on the occupied West was quoted in Amman as saying that municipalities in the West Bank were facing a difficult situation because of activities by Israeli settlers.

He said in an interview, published by Al Dustour, that municipalities on the West Bank needed about J.D. 10 million to finance their projects, particularly housing schemes.

He called on the Arab countries to support the municipal councils to enable them to help the Arabs on the occupied territories to face the Israeli settlers' movement.

Mr. Freij arrived in Amman yesterday and handed the minister of municipalities a note on the many projects his town wanted to carry out. He also asked for financial support from the Jordanian government.

Mr. Freij will go to the Gulf states to seek their financial support after his Amman visit.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli police said they had increased security precautions in case of incidents during celebrations marking the 29th anniversary of the creation of the state of Israel, due to start tonight and continue throughout tomorrow.

A spokesman denied they had made any arrests however.

It was announced that the military governor of the West Bank had decided as part of the celebrations to release 20 people imprisoned for political violence.

ew curfew clamped on Karachi as 13 die

CHI, April 20 (R). – The ani government tonight sed a curfew in Karachi at least 13 people were ed to have died in rene-olitical violence.

official announcement he curfew would go into from daybreak tomorrow indefinite period and be strictly enforced by rmy and other security

Sind provincial govern-said the curfew would be ed over the whole city r million people.

cials said nine people en killed and 70 injured tical clashes.

usually reliable sources least 13 people had died in battles between oppo-nd supporters of Prime r. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

more people were cru-death under the wheels uburban train which ran upporters of the oppos-akistan National Allian-A) who were blocking a y line.

furious crowd set the abalze and tried to rip track after the incident.

The death toll in Pakistan's biggest city could go higher. There were unconfirmed reports that three or four people were trapped inside a house set on fire by PNA supporters.

Today's clashes erupted in at least six different parts of the sprawling city, which was virtually crippled by a strike called by powerful trade unions to back the PNA demands for Mr. Bhutto to quit office.

Six banks were burned, two liquor shops destroyed and a post office and government telegraph office set ablaze.

Karachi dockers went on strike, bringing the country's only port to a standstill. No public transport was plying the city streets as PNA people erected barricades to block traffic.

In Hyderabad, northeast of Karachi, 30,000 workers were reported planning to go on strike from tomorrow until Mr. Bhutto resigns.

In the Punjab capital of Lahore, more than 20,000 PNA demonstrators marched through the streets, many of them wielding knives and firing pistols in the air.



OFF TO KIEV -- Syrian President Hafez Assad is seen with Communist Party head Leonid Brezhnev reviewing the guard of honour during seeing off ceremony at Moscow's Vnukovo airport Wednesday. (AP wirephoto).

Assad's Moscow talks yield "important results" for Mideast

MOSCOW, April 20 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad said today his two days of talks with Kremlin leader had yielded important results for Soviet-Syrian cooperation in the Middle East.

Mr. Assad, speaking in a television interview before leaving for a tour of the Soviet Union, said : "Soviet-Syrian meetings in Moscow were a new contribution to the deepening and consolidation of friendly relations between Syria and the Soviet Union."

"They (the talks) yielded important results within the frame of mutual actions of Syria and the Soviet Union for the solution of a number of international problems, and above all the problem of normalising the Middle East," he added.

Observers said Mr. Assad was referring to the situation in south Lebanon and Moscow's Middle East peace proposals -- both likely topics for discussion.

Few details have been released about Mr. Assad's talks with the Kremlin leaders but they are believed to have been aimed at patching up relations between the Soviet Union and Syria after a period of strain.

President Assad arrived in Kiev from Moscow today, TASS news agency reported.

The president is touring the Ukraine and Georgia after the two days of talks with Kremlin leaders in Moscow.

Zaire displays two prisoners, meagre spoils of 6 weeks of war

KINSHASA, April 20 (R). — Bandaged prisoners from the Tiger and Mirage battalions of rebels fighting in southern Zaire said today they had been accompanied by Cuban troops when they entered this country last month.

They were speaking at a press conference called to give the first public display of the spoils of six weeks of conflict in the southern, mineral-rich province of Shaba -- and the spoils amounted to just the two dejected captives, four rifles, two boxes of explosives and some forged money.

"We came in groups of 25 and there were 42 Cubans with us," said captured Corporal Yava Pierre Kapenda of the Tiger battalion.

"But they left us before we were captured and there were no Cubans at that time. We picked up our weapons however we could to fight. But the Tiger battalion was decimated."

His comments in Swahili were translated into French by a government official.

The Tiger and Mirage battalions had not been previously named but were apparently part of a force of ex-Katangese gendarmes involved in the six-week-old conflict.

The prisoners said they had been captured at Kayembe last weekend, coinciding with a reported advance by government forces supported by Moroccans and including pygmies armed with bows and arrows.

The pygmies are said by the government here to be playing a formidable part, slipping quietly and rapidly through the forests in pursuit of their foes.

The advancing forces are pushing west from the key copper-mining centre of Kolwezi to the town of Mutshatsha, which the government says is almost encircled.

In the past, Cuba, the Soviet Union and neighbouring Angola have repeatedly denied Zairean charges of involvement in the fighting.

Both prisoners -- Kapenda and 22-year-old Benoit Nzavi -- said they had been trained by Cubans and Russians in Angola for two months before the invasion.

Earlier today the two men were presented by President Mobutu Sese Seko to a mass rally and exposed to the jeers of a crowd of 60,000 under the torrid noon heat of Kinshasa.

The two men were presented to journalists under the glaring spotlamps of a television studio, sitting with bowed heads and bandaged on the head and neck.

The weapons presented with them were four aging, Nato-type G-3 rifles, a box of six Soviet mines and some Portuguese explosives.

The prisoners were flown here last night from Kolwezi by military aircraft and, according to the Zaire government, have spent several days under interrogation.

The government here says it has captured "tons" of ammunition and arms and has promised to fly journalists to Kolwezi to view them.

But the trip was cancelled yesterday and reporters were told they would be able to see the captured material here.

Sitting against a backdrop of jungle paintings, the prisoners said they had been paid up to 1,400 kwanza (30 dollars) a month while in Angola.

They gave conflicting reports of their background. At one point they said they had been in Angola for three years. At another point they said they had been press-ganged two months before the invasion.

Giscard: France will defend African states

DAKAR, April 20 (R). — French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing today pledged unlimited help for any African country threatened by foreign attack or interference.

"Any African state has a right to security within its borders whatever its political system," he told the opening session of the Fourth Franco-African Summit.

The president, who last week provided an air shuttle for Moroccan troops reinforcing the Zaire government which is under rebel attack, added : "Africa must be left to the Africans."

He assured the summit, attended by 18 of France's former African colonies, that they could rely on help from Paris "in all forms".

The French leader said he deplored that Africa had been turned into a battlefield for outside rivalry, interference and greed.

Senegalese President Leopold Senghor said yesterday that bilateral defence agreements with France would be a key issue at the two-day conference though they would not be discussed publicly.

Most African countries previously had agreements allowing French troops on their soil but now mainly have military cooperation pacts such as the one which permitted the airlift to Zaire.

Conference sources said they might seek a flexible new framework allowing them to call on France for help in times of trouble.

During the first session, African leaders criticised the West for letting inflation rip and for the deterioration in their trade competitivity.

Prince Saud hangs high hopes on Carter-Fahd talks in U.S.

AMMAN, April 20 (R). — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal does not believe Israel wants a Middle East peace settlement, but thinks planned Saudi talks with President Carter will be of "great importance," according to the Saudi Press Agency.

In an interview with the Jeddah newspaper Al Bilad, Prince Saud said his country was neither optimistic nor pessimistic over the projected Geneva peace talks.

But he added : "There are no signs that Israel is ready to attend the conference with the spirit necessary to bring it to success and provide the necessary foundations and formulas for a peaceful solution."

The agency quoted him as saying in the interview that the forthcoming meeting between Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and President Carter in Washington would be of "great importance" because discussions would centre on the Middle East problem.

He described President Carter's statement that there should be a homeland for the Palestinians as "extremely constructive."

He hoped that American awareness that the Palestine issue was the crux of the Middle East problem would be an essential element in solving the crisis.

Referring to his recent visits to Sanaa, Aden and Mogadishu, Prince Saud said his talks in the three capitals did not touch on the possibility of a summit conference to discuss Red Sea security.

"The Red Sea is a zone for all the states overlooking it and is also an international waterway," the prince was quoted as saying.

Lebanon may get 50,000 man army

BEIRUT, April 20 (AFP). — The government is studying plans to rebuild the Lebanese army, which collapsed during the civil war, into a 50,000 strong force compared with its previous strength of 14,000 informed sources said today.

President Elias Sarkis, Defence and Foreign Minister Fuad Butros and Fuad Lahoud, Chairman of the Parliamentary Defence committee met yesterday to examine draft legislation on reconstructing the army.

The plan suggested a "command council" be put in charge of the defence forces, which previously received their orders solely from the commander in chief, according to the sources.

Authoritative sources said the draft was drawn up by the government of Rachid Karami between July 1975 and December last year and was responsible for a row between Mr. Karami and his interior minister, former President Camille Chamoun, who wanted power to remain in the hands of the commander in chief.

OPEC PRESIDENT WELCOMES VENEZUELAN MEDIATION

DOHA, Qatar, April 20 (R). — OPEC President Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa Al Thani today welcomed efforts by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to resolve the oil producing organisation's split on prices.

President Perez left Caracas today to fly to Qatar at the start of a two-week mediation tour, which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the Qatar Minister of Petroleum and Finance, told Reuter today : "We welcome any effort by President Perez to bring about a compromise. We would give him our full support if he undertakes such a mission, and hope that he will succeed."

Qatari officials said the Venezuelan president's tour, and the visit here yesterday by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nhaiyan, were the first in a series of high-level consultations aimed at ending the two-tier oil price system which has been in operation since January 1.

In interview with Le Monde

King Hussein: Mideast is racing towards disaster, serious talks must begin

PARIS, April 20 (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that the Middle East is heading for "disaster" unless serious negotiations get under way this year, Le Monde reported today.

In an interview with the French daily, King Hussein said the size of the ensuing "explosion" in the Middle East would be on a par with the "unfounded hopes" raised about a settlement.

The monarch said he would tell U.S. President Jimmy Carter, when they meet in Washington on April 25, that the Middle East was "racing towards disaster, unless we manage to begin the process of serious negotiations this year. He disagreed with the contention that 1977 would be decisive in the search for an Arab-Israeli peace, because obstacles to that goal remained formidable.

He told the French newspaper that the Israelis were still suffering from the complex of a beleagered people.

"Obstacles on the way towards a global and definitive settlement remain formidable," he said. "The Israelis are still prisoners of their 'massada' complex and react in the irrational manner of a people which considers itself besieged and doomed to destruction."

King Hussein said that some Israeli leaders were exploiting the situation to pursue an expansionist policy. "I have the painful feeling that the Israeli government does not envisage negotiating seriously a peace based on the return of territories captured in 1967," he said.

The Israeli government is procrastinating, in the hope that in a few years the Arabs will be acting from a position of weakness, King Hussein said.

He feared that the situation in Lebanon might be used by Israel as a pretext to launch a new war.

"All these and other factors do not incite me to optimism," he told Le Monde's correspondent, Eric Rouleau. "Those who lead Arab opinion to believe that peace can be restored in 1977 are playing with fire," he said.

Conceding that the form of PLO representation at peace talks remained "a question which divides the Arabs", the King noted that Egypt's President Anwar Sadat wanted the PLO to be represented at the Geneva peace conference by an autonomous delegation.

"My preference," the King said, "tends toward (PLO) integration in a single delegation representing all the Arab belligerants and within which majority rule would be observed."

He outlined his views to PLO leader Yasser Arafat during their March 8 meeting in Cairo. He did not believe he had "convinced" the Palestinian leader who, King Hussein felt, wanted to go to Geneva independently.

Meanwhile, the King expressed regret that Arab officials travelled to Washington "without bothering to consult each other beforehand or to define a common position."

The United States could have a decisive influence on any definitive Middle East settlement, King Hussein said, but the Soviet Union also had "a major role to play in the peace process."

King meets Britain's Owen

LONDON, April 20 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein and British Foreign Secretary David Owen had a 30 minute discussion here today on the Middle East, a foreign office spokesman said.

The meeting took place in the light of Dr. Owen's visits next week to Cairo and Damascus for talks with Egyptian and Syrian leaders.

The King is here on a short private visit and is due to leave during the weekend for talks with President Jimmy Carter in Washington.

Petrol tax may rise 50 cents a gallon

Carter announces tough energy conservation plan

WASHINGTON, April 20 (R). — President Carter tonight asked Congress for standby authority to increase petrol taxes by as much as 50 cents a gallon as part of a stringent programme to conserve the nation's energy.

He said he wanted power to raise the present tax of four cents a gallon by increments of five cents beginning on Jan. 15, 1979, if consumption exceeded targets to be set.

The president, who has warned Americans to stop wasting fuel or face a national catastrophe, also proposed a tax penalty soaring to $2,488 by 1985 on large, inefficient cars and light trucks.

The president's programme, presented personally to a joint session of Congress, would return the increased petrol taxes as income tax rebates which would go mostly to low income families.

Other proposals included :

-- Tax provisions that would increase the cost of domestically-produced oil to about $13.50 a barrel, the price now charged by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

-- Raising the price of new domestic natural gas in interstate commerce,

-- Removal of a 10 per cent excise tax on inter-city buses to encourage mass transportation,

-- Tax credits for Americans who insulate their homes. The credit proposed was 25 per cent of the first $800 spent and 15 per cent of the next $1,400,

-- Tax credits for the installation of solar energy equipment as well as a programme costing up to $100 million over the next three years for its installation in government buildings,

-- Mandatory standards for home appliances to make them more efficient so that they use less energy, and

-- The abolition of discounts for large users of electricity together with lower off-peak domestic rates under certain circumstances.

Will Americans follow Mr. Carter's lead -- p. 4

Submission of the new programme to Congress opened what White House officials called the president's toughest political battle of his four-year term.

Already, advance reports of the programme have drawn criticism that the president's measures are too drastic and that his proposal for higher petrol taxes faces likely defeat in Congress.

The president, who recently barred U.S. production of plutonium as a fuel for nuclear power reactors, announced that he was reopening the order books for uranium enrichment services overseas.

He said he would propose legislation to guarantee the sale of enrichment services to any country which agreed to comply with U.S. requirements aimed at banning the spread of nuclear fuel capable of use in warheads.

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Solid foundations

The official Jordan News Agency has reported that a study is underway about the feasibility of turning an abandoned oil pumping station in the eastern desert of Jordan into a tourist village. The idea has its merits, particularly in view of the vast potential for "desert tourism" that Jordan is seeking to tap in the long run. But the news makes us aware both of the potential in Jordan and the need for strict priorities to turn that potential into tangible developments and productive economic reality. Specifically, the tourism sector is one that is viewed by the government as a "productive" sector, in that it brings in revenues and that it can be developed largely within the domestic financial and technological resources of the country.

But when we talk of strict priorities, we feel that the process of development should, in fact must, be based on solid building blocks. In the tourism sector, this means that we need to make sure we have the solid base of essential, regular services at the country's most accessible and most spectacular touristic sites before we move ahead to the more remote and perhaps more esoteric attractions of the land. For example, many of the major sites in Jordan, such as Jerash and Karak, are lacking basic explanatory signs and notices that are vital to the tourist's appreciation and enjoyment of these awesome places. In Jerash itself, the extravaganza of Graeco-Roman monuments is marred by the debris that abounds among the ruins.

At such sites as Shobak and Ajlun castles, there are no more than a few words etched in marble at the entrance to tell the visitor what the place is all about. The monumental Nabataean city of Umm Al Jamal, just east of Mafraq on the road to the eastern desert, is more of a puzzle than a touristic site. The visitor there has nothing to help explain the history of the place. The same comments apply to virtually every touristic attraction in Jordan, of which there are many, and all of enormous interest.

The point is that it may be building on soft foundations to initiate tremendous new and expensive touristic projects such as light and sound shows at Jerash or inland marinas at Aqaba if the visitor to Jordan today is faced with something of a maze to get through when trying to take in this country's historical and archaeological wealth. It is insufficient for this country simply to dwell upon the riches that have been bequeathed it from the past, if we do not make sure that we offer those essential, minimal touristic services that are the guarantors of a pleasant and meaningful visit by the hundreds of thousands of people who already come here. We can talk about potential for only so long, after which the potential must be translated into practical facilities and services if the future of tourism -- and everything else -- in Jordan is to be as glorious and as long-lasting as the monuments of Petra and the columns of Jerash.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies commented in their Wednesday editorials on His Majesty King Hussein's interview with the London newspaper, The Observers, in which he called for a true and courageous assessment of the realities in the Middle East and warned against raising unwarranted expectations concerning an impending peace settlement in the Middle East. A third daily discussed President Assad's visit to Moscow and the role it is expected to play in any future peace settlement. A fourth daily discussed Mr. Andrew Young's statement on Arab hatred of Jews made during a meeting with leaders of American Jewish organisations on March 30.

AL DUSTOUR, said that His Majesty's call to assess the realities in the Middle East constitutes an explicit warning not to place too much hope in a near and easy peace settlement. The inevitable substitute, if such a predicted peace settlement fails, would be more extremism and violence in the region. Such warnings should be repeatedly stressed to convince Arabs and all concerned of the danger of the "game of illusion" which should be avoided.

The Arabs, therefore, should neither over-estimate Israel's strength nor despair and lose hope, the paper added. What is intended by the warning is to encourage the Arabs to increase their strength to convince Israel that its strength alone is not the factor which determines the destiny of the region. Only then, the paper concluded, the road to peace will become easier.

AL SHA'B, said that the raising of unwarranted hopes in a near peace settlement is dangerous as it would help to "anesthetise" Arab public opinion and would weaken Arab efforts for a unified Arab stand. It would also help to create a false impression with international public opinion that Israel, known for its racism and expansionist policy, is willing to establish a just and permanent peace.

It is a well known fact that the Israeli intransigence and its continued occupation of Arab lands constitute the main obstacles towards peace, the paper said. Any real peace efforts therefore should take into account these facts instead of being built on false illusions.

AL RA'I, said that American-Soviet cooperation towards a peace settlement in the Middle East have helped Arab diplomatic efforts to create a suitable international atmosphere conducive to the starting of the peace process. However, the paper added, the U.S. role in that field has been more important than that of the Soviet Union. While not doubting the intentions of President Carter in pressuring Israel, we feel, the paper said, the need for the presence of another power besides the United States to pressure Israel and convince it to accept a peace settlement.

Israel would consider Soviet pressures more seriously than those coming from the United States, as it has been accustomed to take U.S. pressures lightly in particular with the U.S. continuing its military and financial support of Israel and the knowledge by Israel that it posseses influence on a number of American institutions, the paper concluded.

AL AKHBAR, commenting on Mr. Young's statement on Arab hatred of Jews said that the Zionist movement is no longer capable of preventing secrets from being known. In any case, the paper added, there is no need at present to listen behind doors, as the people nowadays know everything as all secrets are uncovered.

The Zionist movement has sensed the personality of Mr. Young and has felt it safe to invite him to attend one of its most secret meetings where he talked freely and opened his heart, the paper concluded.

Bright future expected for Japanese-Chinese relations

By Jean-Francois Bonnet

PARIS, April 20 (AFP). — China and Japan appear set for a lasting economic and political rapprochement.

Following the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, China returned to the international scene with a proposal for a long-term economic agreement to a Japanese business delegation headed by Mr. Toshiwo Doko met by the new Chairman, Hua Kuo-feng.

Under the agreement, China was to supply oil and coal in exchange for Japanese equipment, fertilizer and steel. The accord is the first of its kind, since Peking had previously limited its exchanges with Japan to annual or specific operations.

The accord coincided with a suggestion that Japanese Foreign Minister Ichiro Hatayama visit Peking to resume negotiations on a peace treaty. Previous talks stumbled over a Chinese demand for an "anti-hegemony" clause on Asia, which Japan could not accept because of Soviet opposition.

The recent visit to Washington by Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda led observers to conclude that the U.S. would not oppose a more formal rapprochement between Tokyo and Peking. President Jimmy Carter in fact actively encouraged Mr. Fukuda to develop a certain autonomy in diplomatic affairs -- which Japan, despite its leadership position economically, had refused to do.

Japanese leaders, with the support of their public, have previously remained cautiously reserved in the realm of international politics. In their view, diplomacy had to be limited to economic questions, since Japan had no defence of its own. In addition, they deemed it necessary to maintain an equal "distance" between China and the Soviet Union.

The international balance of forces, including the convergence of interests between China and the U.S. since 1972, held this "equidistance" to be of little account. Former Japanese Premier Takeo Miki eventually agreed.

In recent months, relations between Japan and the Soviet Union have seriously deteriorated, and Tokyo could take a chance on a "freeze" of cooperation at the current level.

Japan is forced to reach an agreement with Moscow for the development of the immense Siberian resources, especially the very rich Tyumen oil fields, because of Japan's vital need for energy and raw materials.

But while Japan took part in some economic operations, the file on oil exploitation appears to be stalled. Last year, Tokyo refused to grant credits of more than $3,000 million which would have allowed construction of a pipeline linking central Siberia with the Soviet coast on the sea of Japan -- a pipeline which would obviously have followed the lines of the Chinese border.

The seventh meeting of the Soviet-Japanese Cooperation Commission was cancelled last November. At the same time, Tokyo played deaf to pressing and repeated Soviet demands for the immediate return of an ultra-modern Mig-25 aircraft which a Soviet pilot flew to Japan. The plane was returned only after it was taken apart and examined by both Japanese and American experts.

The deterioration in Soviet-Japanese relations reached its climax with their conflict over fishing zones.

An interim agreement which expired on March 31 following the expansion of the Soviet economic zone to 200 miles was not followed up by a definitive accord. Talks in Moscow were broken off once and resumed again after a cool meeting between Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin and Mr. Sunao Sonoda, the Japanese premier's Chief-of-Staff, who made a special trip from Tokyo last week but who was forced to wait more than 48 hours for his visa.

The question of fishing zones is a key one for Japan, which uses most of the 10 million tons in its annual catch. More than 50 per cent of the protein absorbed by Japanese comes from the sea.

Several hundred trawlers have been ordered out of Soviet waters, and the halt in their operations is endangering the jobs of some 200,000 people in northern Japan. The talks have been further hampered by the fact the Soviet Union has tried to link the Kyrill Islands question -- which Japan claims but which the Soviet Union occupied in the last days of World War II -- to the fishing problem.

By putting forward the principle of a long-term accord with Tokyo, China -- which rarely makes a commitment without being able to keep it -- is expressing confidence in the future as it recently suffered from an oil and coal energy deficit, complicated by serious industrial havoc wreaked by the Tang Shan earthquake and by a drought affecting the northern bread-basket.

Meanwhile, the United States, which has also had problems with the Soviet Union over fishing zones, is pushing the Japanese to assume political responsibilities more in keeping with their power.

Defence remains the key problem. Tokyo is very concerned about U.S. plans to withdraw from Korea, and last week's announcement of a pull-back of American nuclear warhead missiles did nothing to dispel that concern.

Despite its industrial might, Japan, headed by septuagenarians who were very marked by the last world war, will continue for a while to refuse any military responsibility at all.

The growing separation between economic power and the refusal of political responsibilities will continue to pose, it appears, a fundamental problem to the nation.

Belgian elections don't heal splits

By Paul Loby

BRUSSELS, April 20 (AFP). — The undeniable success of Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans and the Christian Democratic Party in Sunday's general election in Belgium is accompanied by an accentuation of the split among the nation's three large regions.

In the north, Flanders is prosperous, modern, and in a majority -- and it gives strong support to the Christian Democrats. In the south, French-speaking Wallonia is losing steam economically and votes Socialist. And Brussels in the centre, threatened by Flemish pressure, gives the majority of its votes to the Francophone Democratic Front.

This linguistic party may well be the stumbling block in any future constitutional discussion on regionalisation.

If Mr. Tindemans decides on a simple continuation of his present team of Christian Democrats and Liberals, the result will be an under-representation of Wallonia and Brussels. Observers think it more likely that he will consider formation of a grand coalition with the Socialists, as has often been done since 1945.

However, the results of the just-completed election will not facilitate the ticklish negotiations among the large traditional parties.

The success of the Flemish Christian Democrats and the more modest progress of the Socialist Party have cut back the electoral importance of the other groups. Finance Minister Willy de Clercq's Flemish Liberal Party dropped back in the standings Sunday for the first time since it was established -- probably because of the unpopularity of the austerity measures decided on by Mr. de Clercq and his colleagues.

Third Circle Phantasmic By Omar Jawad

Hope of the future...

I'm starting to become a little bit discouraged by my ongoing attempts to help find a solution to the Middle East conflict. I have tried in this space to come up with what I think are constructive and fresh suggestions about how peace can be achieved in the Middle East, but nobody seems to have taken up any of my ideas, and all I see on the horizon is more conflict.

So to take a fresh look at the world, I decided to go to those people who maintain a lively perspective on things, namely the children of the Arab World. It is something of a cliche that our children are the hope of the future, but it is true nevertheless, and to find out what the future holds in store for the Holy Land I stopped a little boy on the street the other day and struck up a conversation with him.....

"Hello, son, how are things this morning?" I asked.

"We are in a very dangerous situation, even an explosive one. We have to muster all our strength to face the common enemy," he replied, without blinking an eye.

Hmmmm, I thought, these young children seem quite politicised. Perhaps if I ask him something that has nothing to do with politics, he'd give me something to be happy about. So I asked him whether he enjoyed playing sports.

"We play sports all the time," he replied, "because in order to face the challenges of the enemy we need to be prepared and fit in all spheres of life."

It was obvious that the enemy was a subject constantly on the kid's mind. I tried to draw him out on the topic.

"What do you think it will require to beat the enemy?" I asked.

"Perseverance and determination," he answered, hardly missing a breath. "We also need to be steadfast in our commitment to our total development. The Arab Nation is big enough and strong enough and rich enough to stand up to the common enemy," he said, "and by developing our own societies we will then bury the enemy."

This made some sense to me, so I tried to have the boy give me some specifics. I asked him about military development, and whether he thought the Arabs would win on the battlefield.

"Perhaps not right now, but in the future we will have the ability," he answered. "The common enemy shall perish by the gun because he lives by the gun."

I asked him if he could use some other term besides the common enemy. So he started talking about the gangster state.

"The gangster state is a cancer in the heart of our Arab Nation," he suggested.

I asked him whether he expected the future to be better for him than it has been for his parents, particularly from the point of view of whether the Arab Nation would be able to pull itself together to fight the gangster state.

"We are a complex people," he said, "and we do many things that seem strange to outsiders."

I asked whether he meant such things as the war in Lebanon.

"Yes, that is what I mean, but you know it is part of the Arab genius that we can always see something positive in the worst moments."

Aha, I thought, this is what I'd been looking for, that spark of positive spirit that will push the Arab World into greatness once again. I was delighted that I had found this in the youth of the Arab Nation. So I asked the boy what kind of positive things he was talking about.

"If you take a look at what has happened in Lebanon, you will see that our fighters have gained a great deal of experience in house-to-house combat in mountain villages, and our artillery gunners have had many opportunities to practice their accuracy. These will help us overcome the gangster state," he replied.

This made very little sense to me, so I asked him if he had other examples of how he saw positive things among the turmoil and the conflicts within the Arab World.

"Yes, of course," he said, "the Arab Nation is full of such examples. In the economic field you will notice that the world price of phosphates has increased because the war in the Western Sahara has cut off phosphate supplies from there. For the many Arab phosphate producers, this is something sent from God.

"And look at the information field. I think in a few years' time you will see Libya emerging as the most sophisticated Arab state in the use of public relations and propaganda techniques. The Libyans are always mounting a propaganda campaign against the Egyptians or the Sudanese or any of the other Arab states, and this experience will be useful to fight the gangster state."

I asked him if he could use another term instead of the gangster state, which was becoming tedious. So he started talking about the racist entity.

"We will fight the racist entity when we have coordinated all our capabilities," he said, which made me feel good about the prospect of justice triumphing in the future, and I walked away from the little boy feeling much better.

But as we parted, I remembered that he did not comment on one very important question, which is the matter of Arab unity. He talked about coordination and the common enemy and joint action, but he did not once use the phrase Arab unity. This perplexed me because it seemed that he was so adament about how the Arabs will all work together to beat the racist entity. And it also struck me that he also never used the word Israel, but rather used a whole series of other phrases.

As I walked along, I was bothered by this last point, so I finally turned around and ran back to find the boy. I caught up with him as he was buying a shawarma sandwich, and I put the question to him straight: "Who is it that we will triumph over in the end?" I asked.

"The bandit state", he replied, and as he turned around, he took a big bite out of his shawarma sandwich, all the time wiping away small drops of hommos that fell onto his young moustache.

Easter was a good enough time for Chicago's atheists' convention

By John Wallace

CHICAGO, April 20 (R). — It wasn't planned that way, but Easter proved a good time for a U.S. national atheists' convention.

Some 250 disbelievers gathered here to reaffirm their lack of faith, and while attendance wasn't up to expectations, everything went quite smoothly.

They selected a Religious Hypocrite of the Year, designated a National Atheist Holiday, denounced the federal government for subsidising organised religion, and had a party every night.

In charge throughout the four-day convention was Mrs. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the woman responsible for getting the Supreme Court to outlaw Bible-reading and prayer recitation from public schools.

The 57-year-old Mrs. O'Hair is founder and President of the Society of Separationists, better known as the American Atheists, and as one conventioneer confided: "I don't know what we'd do without her."

The race for the hypocrite award was close. President Carter was tipped as an early favourite, and there was strong sentiment for singer Anita Bryant, whose campaign against homosexuals in Miami has gained nationwide headlines.

In the end, however, the selection was former Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver, a newly "born-again" Christian facing trial for a 1968 gun battle with California police.

The choice of a National Atheist Holiday was more difficult. The birthdays of Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Bertrand Russell, Charles Darwin and Mrs. O'Hair herself were among those proposed.

Complained Mrs. O'Hair: "They usually vote for people after they're dead. This kind of scares me."

It was agreed that public relations should play a role in the selection, and the vote finally went to Jefferson, whose birthday, April 13, happens to be the same as Mrs. O'Hair's.

America's Founding Fathers were probably deists, but Jefferson was as close as any to being an atheist, according to Mrs. O'Hair.

Throughout the convention, those in attendance were in awe of Mrs. O'Hair, and with good reason.

Indeed, without "Madalyn", as she prefers to be known, and her two sons, William and Jon, American atheists would probably have no organisation at all.

Mrs. O'Hair is a big-boned, aggressive woman who talks fast, loud and abrasively, but who also possesses an easy, honest smile that reveals the grandmother she happens to be.

She ridicules belief in God or any supreme being, but her main target is intrusion of religion into government, which she believes violates the separation of church and state laid down by the U.S. Constitution.

She is heartened that atheism is "coming out of the closet," with public declarations by prominent persons including actor Burt Lancaster, author Truman Capote, and scientist Linus Pauling.

However, she is disappointed that public disapproval has held others back.

"Several congressmen have told me they're atheists. I've visited their homes and eaten meals with them. But they're afraid of going public -- afraid of the vote," she told Reuters.

The people at the convention mostly couples, older and college-educated -- were not nearly so reticent, readily denying the existence of God. However, their main concerns appeared to be monetary: That churches pay no taxes, that some parochial schools receive government support.

"Religion is costing us money," said Mr. William Bennett, 35, a Chicago insurance examiner who's been following Mrs. O'Hair for about seven years.

"Millions of dollars of property taxes aren't collected each year because some church owns the property, so our taxes go up. We're footing the bill for the believers," he said.

Mrs. Loretta Dorcy, 33, a pretty Detroit housewife, said: "We're organised because the churches are organised and they're trying to shove religion, and the cost of it, down our throats."

The counter attack is under way.

Mrs. O'Hair's group has prepared the first atheist television programme, a 30-minute talk show with Mrs. O'Hair as moderator, and will buy time on television in New York later this year.

The American atheists group is seeking membership in the United Nations as a governmental organisation and plans to appeal to the Commission on Civil Rights about alleged discrimination against atheists.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6

6:00 Quran
6:05 Children's programme
6:30 English by television
7:00 Brady bunch
8:00 News in Arabic

Channel 3

7:30 Science and life
8:30 Quiz programme
9:20 Reportage
10:15 Play

Channel 6

7:30 News in Hebrew
7:45 Varieties
8:30 Are you being served?
9:10 Six million dollar man
10:00 News in English
10:15 Crown Court

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Breakfast show
7:30 News
7:45 News reports
8:00 Sign off
12:00 Pop session
13:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session
14:00 News
14:10 Radio magazine
14:30 Music
14:35 15 weekly
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Old favourites
16:30 Easy listening
17:00 Songs for you
17:30 Pop session
18:00 News summary
18:05 Pop session
18:30 Science report
19:00 News
19:10 News reports
19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:
Amman:
Issa Haddad (56378)
Farhan Qaqish (30699)
Irbid:
Mohammad Shar'a (2680)
Kassem Khaza'leh
Zarqa:
Mahmoud Mebyadeen (83309)

Pharmacies:
Amman:
Adnan (39655)
Jabal Luweibdeh (22682)
Palestine (25216)
Omar (42737)
Irbid:
Khazar
Zarqa:
Salam
Tarde:
Al Hussein Youth City (63273)
Rainbow (37249)
Talal (25021)
Ahli (21127)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:

7:55 Cairo (EA)
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain
8:30 Dhahran, Baghdad
8:40 Kuwait
10:30 Beirut
11:45 Kuwait (KAC)
12:05 Rawalpindi (BA)
16:20 Aqaba
16:45 Cairo
16:55 London
17:25 Copenhagen, Vienna
19:40 Beirut (MEA)
20:05 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
20:20 Riyadh (SDI)

Departures:

8:00 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)
8:00 Beirut
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:45 Cairo (EA)
10:00 Athens, Madrid
10:30 Cairo
12:30 Rome, Paris
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
13:05 London (BA)
14:30 Aqaba
21:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)

BBC RADIO

GMT

05:00 News; 24 hours
05:30 Sarah Ward
05:45 The World Today
06:00 News; Press Review
06:30 A City and its Music
07:00 News; 24 hours
07:30 Sarah Ward
07:45 A Musician Remembers
08:00 News
08:15 International Soccer Special
08:30 Farming World
09:00 News; UK Press Review
09:15 The World Today
09:30 Financial News
09:45 Music Now
10:15 Wales'77
10:30 Just a minute
11:00 News
11:15 The Iron Way
11:30 Right Sort of Food
12:00 Radio Newsreel
12:15 Top Twenty
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News; 24 hours
13:30 Paperbacks
13:45 Radio Theatre
14:30 Matthew on Music
15:00 Radio Newsreel
15:15 Outlook
16:15 Come to the Operetta
16:45 The World Today
17:00 News
17:09 People and Politics
17:40 Book Choice
17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News;Radio Newsreel
18:30 Brain of Britain 1977
19:00 News; Outlook
19:42 Stock Market
19:45 Beat is Black
20:00 World News; 24 hours
20:30 A Jolly Good Show
21:15 People and Politics
21:30 The King's Singers
21:45 Paperbacks
22:00 News; The World Today
22:25 Financial News
22:35 The Melody Makers
22:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News; Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

03:00 to 08:30 The Breakfast Show: 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT: News, Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary. 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses. News Summary
17:20 Dateline
18:00 Special English. News, Feature: Science in the News; News Summary.
18:30 Now Music USA
19:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses.
19:30 VOA Magazine, Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters.
20:00 Special English. News.
20:15 Music USA (Jazz).
21:00 to 21:30 VOA World Report: News ... newsmakers' voices ... correspondents' reports, ... background features ... media comments, ... news analyses.

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Fire headquarters	" 22999
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36201-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777
Airport information (Alia)	" 53285

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41339
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37999
Goethe Institute	" 41992
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44288
Amman Municipal Library	" 39111

هذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Book fair starts today

A fascinating world opens up for children

Because the child is a world in himself and because adults have to make him discover the real world, psychologists, educators, parents, artists and writers have been trying for almost 15 years to overthrow the traditional concept of the children's book. And this revolution in literature is still going on. Both Jordanian parents and children can discover it at King Hussein Club, First Circle, where the Friends of Children Theatre has organized a very important book fair. The Jordan Times managed to get a sneak preview of the exhibition before the opening today.

By Irene Ramadan
(Special to the Jordan Times)

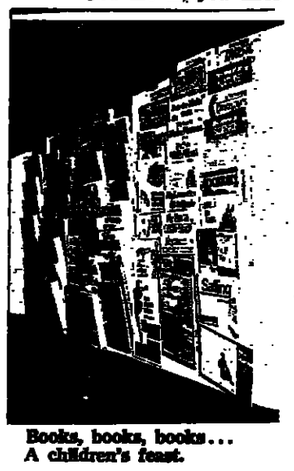
...t our children discover the ...ination of the printed word. ... has been the slogan of ...tern publishers over the ... 15 years.

...shing to make Jordanian ...dren share this renaissance ...adise, the Friends of Chil... Theatre has organised -- ...ollaboration with the Arab ...earch Centre -- a children's ... fair at King Hussein Club. ... exhibition, sponsored by ...ce Hassan and Princess Sa...h, opens today and will ... a week. The children's ... fair has now become one ...he main activities of the ...

"We want our children to ...y reading and to encourage ...hem to build their own li... Our generation has never known the luxury of being ...in reach of such a variety ...good books," members of ...club said.

In fact, the exhibition includes several thousand books for the 6-16 age group -- plus a series of picture books for little children. The Friends of Children Theatre has imported over 100,000 copies, which will be sold at cost price. You can find on display nearly every book published recently -- both in Arabic and English. The most famous publishers are represented here : Hamlyn, Penguin, Ladybird, Collins, Hamish Hamilton, Doctor Seuss's Heineman, MacDonald etc...

Once you are in, you discover the richness of such a selection. It is a real "intellectual" pleasure to run your eyes over the pop-up books, the hard-back picture books, the paper-backs... They cover all kinds of topics: Fairy tales, plays, science, art, music, chess, stamp collecting, sport, nature, crafts...



Books, books, books... A children's feast.

In one corner there is a special stand where several embassies have books on display which typify children's literature in their own countries -- which, unfortunately, are not for sale. In another corner there is a small stand for adults, which offers some best sellers and well-known modern and classical books.

Extra activities will be put on for children visiting the exhibition, such as short film shows, story telling, songs and short plays.

"The books shouldn't be just bought by the parents for the children, but the parents should read them to the children or for them," stressed members of the theatre.

Choosing a book for a child is not a formality, but a very serious act. The Friends of Children Theatre seems to know that very well. All the books on display are both entertaining and educative. In their bright colour, which make them almost works of art, they contribute to the enrichment of the child's unique sensitivity.

JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN FOR PAY RISE

...AN (JNA). — Minister ...ustice Ahmad Al Tarawneh ... a press conference Wed...ay during which he explai... that the ministry has ...n up a new list of allow...s both for degree holders ... those without, which sho... encourage those with high ...ees to join the ministry. ... further spoke about the ...ortance of the judiciary in ...ring stability and provid... the right atmosphere for ...lopment.

...ting on His Majesty King ...sein's directives, the mi...y is doing its best to raise ... standard of efficiency of ... employees and to ensure ...er living conditions for ...n.

AMMAN HOSTS 1980 MINERAL CONFERENCE

RABAT, March 20 (JNA). — The Third Arab Conference on Mineral Wealth has chosen Amman as its next meeting place in 1980.

In its final session here Tuesday, the conference decided to establish an all-Arab organisation for mineral wealth with its head office here, as well as to use modern technological techniques to extract valuable resources.



Minister of Public Works Said Bino (left) explains a point to Premier Mudar Badran after a meeting at his ministry Wednesday to review construction projects. (JNA photo).

Badran presides over public works meeting

AMMAN (JNA). — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday presided over a meeting at the Ministry of Public Works to look into the ministry's projects.

Speaking at the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Badran stressed that a person's attachment to his country is the heart of good work and progress.

"The aim of the government is to boost the competence and productivity of the administrative machinery," he said, adding that the government considers punctuality as an indication of sincere work, and that it will not hesitate to take severe measures against laziness and apathy.

Turning to the functions of the Ministry of Public Works, the prime minister said the government is intent on opening rural roads, especially in the Bani Hassan area, where there is enough agricultural land and water to develop production.

Mr. Badran reviewed the ministry's projects and obstacles faced in their implementation. He was briefed on progress in the construction of rural roads in the northern district, main roads costing JD 24 million and 170 government buildings or various ministries and departments costing JD 28 million.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Public Works Said Bino and senior ministry officials.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, received visiting Syrian Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Mohammad Ali Hashem, Tuesday. Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali also attended the meeting.

* AMMAN. — The members of the Council of the Union of Arab Universities visited the central Ghor Wednesday afternoon and looked over a number of agricultural projects underway there. They afterwards visited the Martyrs Monument at Al Karameh and King Hussein Bridge.

* AMMAN. — The Armed Forces chief of staff and acting commander-in-chief graduated a new group of special force paratroopers and Public Security members Wednesday.

* AMMAN. — The director of development and planning at Yarmouk University returned here Wednesday after attending a conference on public administration held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 5.

* AMMAN. — Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni received the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Amman Wednesday.

ECWA meet opens Sunday

AMMAN (JNA). —His Highness Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, will open the fourth session of the United Nations Economic Committee for Western Asia (ECWA) at Al Hussein Youth City, Sunday.

ECWA Executive Director Dr. Mohammad said Al Attar will hold a press conference at the organisation's provisional head office in Amman Saturday on the points to be discussed at the five-day session.

R.C. ARCHBISHOP URGES SUPPORT FOR ARABS IN OCCUPIED LANDS

AMMAN (R). — The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Amman, Monsignor Nfmeh Al Sa'an, called on all states to support Arabs in the occupied territories and their "revolution against Israeli occupation," according to Al Ra'i Wednesday.

The archbishop was quoted by the newspaper as saying that Israel was using time "to build new settlements in the occupied territory, and settlements have been on the increase in the past few years."

Israel felt that peace prospects were now better than at any time in the past and was building settlements in strategic positions so as "to consecrate its occupation, gain time and face the Arabs and the world with a fait accompli," the archbishop said.

SYRIAN TOURIST MINISTER HERE

AMMAN (JNA). —The Syrian Minister of Tourism, Dr. Ghassan Shalhoub, arrived here from Damascus Wednesday to attend the three-day meeting of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Tourist Committee starting Wednesday.

Dr. Shalhoub, said on arrival that the committee will discuss a number of subjects related to tourist coordination between the two countries, including marketing and joint tourist projects and companies.

The committee will also discuss exchanges between Syrian and Jordanian youngsters and a united stand at international conferences.

University meet urges exposure of Israeli education distortion

AMMAN (JNA). — The Council of the Union of Arab Universities has urged the exposure of the Israeli policy to distort curricula and textbooks in the occupied Arab territories.

The council formed an ad-hoc committee to follow up Israeli actions against higher education and suggest how Arab higher education institutions in the occupied areas are to be bolstered to enable them to carry out their educational work.

At its final session here Wednesday the Council recommended that the General Secretariat of the union should organise a seminar of ministers of agriculture and deans of agricultural faculties to bolster cooperation in the fields of scientific research and the formulation of development plans in Arab countries.

The council formed a special committee to consider applications from the University of Bethlehem and the Sharia College in Hebron to join the union.

It also recommended the formation of a committee to prepare a study aimed at establishing an Arab university and research centres throughout the Arab World.

It expressed its desire to cooperate with the Union of African Universities, with special emphasis on scholarships and staff exchanges.

The Council appealed to Arab universities to boost the number of scholarships for African students in various specialities, and especially in Islamic and Arab studies.

King Abdul Aziz University at Jeddah got a special mention for preparing the first international conference on Islamic education held in Mecca last month, and recommended that Islamic education should be a basic subject in Arab universities.

The Council will hold its next session in Qatar at the end of this year.

Jordanians in Gulf establish contracting co.

AMMAN (JNA). — The Housing Bank and the Retirement Fund have each bought five per cent of the shares of a new Arab contracting company registered here Wednesday.

The company was established by a number of Jordanians working in the Arab Gulf in cooperation with businessmen there.

The company will undertake mechanical, electrical and civil works in addition to the establishment of industrial projects.

Mr. Fakhri Abu Shakra, a representative of the founding committee, said that 66 per cent of the shares had been bought and the rest would be put up for sale in May.

Mr. Abu Shakra has already met the ministers of finance and industry and the director general of the Retirement Fund to discuss the activities of the company.

Prince Hassan to attend ILO conference

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, has received an invitation to attend the 63 rd Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to be held in Geneva in June.

Prince Hassan will speak on labour and the conditions of workers with particular emphasis on the labour movement in Jordan. He will also explain Jordan's achievements during the three-year and five-year plans.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	140.0	140.4
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	131.8	132.2
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.4	93.7
Lebanese pound	108.8	109.4
Syrian pound	80.3	80.8
Iraqi dinar	943.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,145.0	1,150.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	815.0
Egyptian pound	465.0	472.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

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ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Will Americans follow Mr. Carter's lead in tackling the energy crisis?

Mr. Carter's warning and the savage cold last winter are reminding Americans again that they may soon become permanently short of natural gas for heating -- but it still remains a problem that most Americans would like to solve later. President Carter, however, wants to force them to use less gas and oil.

By David Bell

WASHINGTON, (F.T.) — Last year, according to the latest figures, the United States wasted more energy than was consumed by two-thirds of the rest of the world.

That statistic and others like it have been appearing in the press and on television in America for years now. But so far Americans have by and large ignored the fact that theirs is the most profligate society on earth when it comes to the consumption of oil and natural gas.

The Arab oil embargo in 1973 briefly focussed attention on Americans' use of energy, but it was all too quickly forgotten. At least one major U.S. car company is now advertising its new cars as larger than ever, even though the country is now close to importing nearly half its oil; every single study on the subect has pointed the finger at large cars as the worst culprits for having engines that waste fuel on a big scale.

Last winter -- the coldest since records were first kept -- has once again made energy policy the centre of discussion. Schools, factories and shops were shut in some states because of the shortage of natural gas. There has also been a rash of dire warnings about how close America is to a permanent shortage of gas, which would undoubtedly have very serious consequences.

Yet the weather is now moderate, spring is here and already energy policy looks like a problem that everyone wants to solve -- but tomorrow.

There is, however, some chance that this time it is not going to work out quite like that. President Jimmy Carter made the lack of a proper energy policy a major plank of his election campaign and the cold winter has given him the chance he wanted to propose an attitude that really will force Americans to use less gas and oil.

He gave Dr. James Schlesinger, his energy adviser, until April 20 to work out a comprehensive energy policy. It is widely expected that he will call for an increase in the federal tax on petrol, compulsory insulation of public buildings and, perhaps, a ban on all new oil-fired electricity generating stations.

The budget for next year includes provision for extensive new spending on solar and nuclear energy research, as well as trying to find cleaner and more efficient ways of burning coal.

Indeed, coal is the one major fuel of which the United States has abundant supplies. Work is already far advanced on coal pipeline technology, which would allow the easy shipment of coal slurry (coal mixed with water) over long distances. This project has some environmental disadvantages, but there is great optimism that they can be overcome.

Solar energy also has enormous prospects. The unit that Mr. Carter used to heat his reviewing stand on the day he was sworn in as President did not apparently do all that it was supposed to do. But the president chose it to dramatise the possibilities of this new technology. It is particularly relevant in the southern states of the U.S. where sun is plentiful -- and free.

But many of the nice projects and proposals presuppose support from the wide variety of interests that may be ranged against it. Congress has proved remarkably complacent about the energy crisis in the past and each committee has its own particular interest over which to watch.

The natural gas lobby wants prices raised so that it will have a greater incentive to look for new reserves. Opponents of the natural gas industry oppose this. The coal lobby backs the coal pipeline, but environmentallsts have grave doubts about it. Any measures that increase the cost of energy to the consumer may be political dynamite.

So it is a long way from presidential proposals to a real energy policy and Mr. Carter may find the going very tough indeed. What is clear is that without a proper policy the United States will indeed be in serious trouble within the next few years and then Congress will certainly reap the whirlwind that it will have sown if it does not co-operate.

In the midst of the Arab oil embargo in 1973, President Nixon launched Project Independence. He said this would make the U.S. self-sufficient in energy by 1980. Events since then have revealed just what an empty public relations exercise it was.

President Ford's energy policy was stuck in Congress, where it finally died. It was unmourned by very many congressmen because it seemed to favour the producers over the consumers and because it left too many problems unsolved.

Now it is Mr. Carter's turn. He knows that he cannot afford to fail. The country knows it too. But whether the country cares enough to follow his lead is another matter. Given the past record, there are no particular grounds for optimism.

U.S. to rebuild strategic stockpile of metals

The United States has a list of 72 materials to start buying for its strategic stockpile -- many of them metals. There will be a temptation to use this buying power as a political tool, though officials insist that the temptation will be avoided.

WASHINGTON, (F.T.) — The Carter administration is going to have to decide very soon what it wants to do with proposals unveiled before the presidential election, which called for the rebuilding of the nation's stockpile of commodities over the next few years.

This strategic stockpile is made up of 93 materials. Funds to begin rebuilding it have been allocated already, but priorities must be decided and the Carter administration has so far given no sign of its attitude.

Officials at the Federal Preparedness Agency, which is the part of the General Services Administration that is charged with looking after the stockpile, expect that there will be few changes to the stockpile programme, which they still see as very necessary.

The major fear of the FPA, and one which its officials have tried hard to lay to rest, is that the re-entry of the government into the markets might begin to push prices up.

They intend to proceed very carefully so as to avoid any charge that they might inadvertently be contributing to rises on the markets of the world.

In any case, the rebuilding of the stockpile is expected to take several years, so officials discount the likelihood of any sudden disruptive move by government buyers. Almost all the materials in the current stockpile were bought before 1959 and the minerals, metals and other materials now on hand are worth about $4.7 billion at current prices.

The FPA says that when the stockpile has been brought back to its desired level its value will "considerably exceed" this figure, but officials will not be drawn on the ultimate size of the figure, saying that this would be misleading and "would do an injustice to the entire programme."

Present plans call for increased purchases of 72 materials on the stockpile list and the disposal of only about eight categories of material. In the case of copper, to take only one possible example, the temptation may be to use buying as a political tool, for instance to help the Zambian government in return for new Zambian support in efforts to force through a Rhodesian settlement.

Officials insist that this temptation will be avoided and the new administration seems more likely to avoid it than the last. Nevertheless the temptation will be there and will be just one of the obstacles to be avoided as, and when, the programme gets under way.

In anticipation of a go-ahead from the Carter administration the FPA has already begun developing what it calls "major programmes of both acquisitions and disposals," although it will not say precisely what they are.

In one key paragraph last October the agency tried to address itself to the problems of the market. "It is fully recognised that for some materials there are considerable shortfalls between what is presently in the stockpile and the requirements of the new stockpile goals.

"For these materials there is no intention to move injudiciously to offset these shortfalls. In particular careful consideration will be given to the effects of stockpile decisions on current market conditions," the agency said.

These goals will be carefully co-ordinated with the office of management and budget, will be divided into three distinct groups -- defence, essential civilian and general civilian.

Defence will clearly get the highest priority but the goals are intended to be flexible and will be reassessed each year in the light of market conditions.

FPA officials continue to urge corporate buyers to develop their own long-range buying programmes and say "the new stockpile planning process means that corporate planners may need to develop equally flexible plans that can be readily adjusted for changes in the levels of the stockpile."

Polish shipyards have most orders

WARSAW, April 20 (AFP). — Polish shipyards have the biggest order books after those of Japan, according to figures by Lloyds quoted here today.

Poland is ahead of the United States, Spain, Britain and Sweden, according to these statistics covering the year 197. Work in hand totals 1,940,00 or seven per cent of all worl orders.

The United States and Poland are the only countrie whose orders have not falle Main customers for Polish shi are its socialist partners.

Oil states begin talks aimed at restoring oil price unity

DOHA, Qatar, April 20 (R). — Leaders of the OPEC member states have started a series of high level consultations aimed at restoring oil price unity, Qatari officials said here today.

The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, left Qatar yesterday after the first in the series of bilateral contacts, they added.

Tomorrow's scheduled visit by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez would provide an opportunity to continue these efforts, the officials said.

Qatar and the UAE stand on opposite sides of the organisation of petroleum exporting countries two-tier price system. The UAE was the only member state to support Saudi Arabia in opting for a lower price at the December conference of OPEC oil ministers here.

But officials said today Qatar was satisfied with the results of oil price talks with Sheikh Zaid, hinting that a compromise solution to the price differences might come from the UAE, with Saudi Arabia later following the lead of its ally.

Venezuelan President Perez, who is touring major Gulf oil producing states, said in Caracas yesterday he was confident the oil price conflict would be resolved soon.

Qatar, whose Petroleum and Finance Minister Sheikh Abdel Aziz Bin Khalifa Al Thani is the current president of OPEC, has been seeking a compromise acceptable to all the OPEC states but its earlier efforts have not been successful.

Sheikh Abdel Aziz toured the Middle East exporting states in February and sent emissaries to the other OPEC member states, including Venezuela, to convass a compromise plan.

Under the plan, the majority of OPEC's 13 members, which raised prices by 10 per cent on January 1, would have abandoned a further rise of five per cent planned for July 1. In exchange, Saudi Arabia and the UAE would raise their prices, increased by five per cent at the beginning of the year, to the 10 per cent level.

Gulf sources said the plan had been rejected by Saudi Arabia which later came under pressure from the UAE to show a more conciliatory attitude.

Senior Qatari officials have said a solution would have to be found in bilateral contacts rather than in full scale conferences, whether at oil minister or heads of state level.

Observers said efforts to find a solution have now taken on a new sense of urgency because the majority want to avoid raising prices again on July 1 since such a new increase would make a compromise even more difficult.

Venezuela's Perez begins tour of Middle East oil states

CARACAS, April 20 (R). — President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela said no mediating miracles of reconciliation should be expected from a tour of Middle East oil states he has started today.

The two-week tour takes President Perez to Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq -- protagonists in the split over crude oil price increases in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Senor Perez is expected to try to heal the breach which has split Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates from the 11 other OPEC members.

He told reporters at the Miraflores Presidential Palace he was confident the conflict would be resolved soon, but warned: "Miracles should not be expected from the president of Venezuela nor that he should bring back definite solutions on the issue."

Venezuela was one of the 11 members which agreed at an OPEC meeting in Doha, Qatar, last December on an immediate 10 per cent increase in the price of crude oil and a further five per cent rise from July 1.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates refused to go beyond a single five per cent increase from January 1.

Senor Perez said the most important outcome was the "all 13 countries unanimously agreed to defreeze oil prices and that is what the foreign press tried somehow to disguise."

The president's tour was arranged before the Doha meeting. But observers here believe one main objective will be a major effort to reconcile the conflicting standpoints.

There has been no official word on this from either Senor Perez or Mines and Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez who has overall responsibility for Venezuela's oil industry.

Senor Perez, said that in his talks with Arab leaders "We shall insist that it is our fundamental duty to ensure that the balances of payments of developing countries should not suffer because of the high cost of fuel."

President Perez stressed Venezuela's support for the creation of a Palestinian state.

"We have great respect for the Arabs. We believe in the necessity to create a Palestinian state and at the same time we feel great respect for the Israeli nation," he said.

President Perez described Venezuela's Middle East policy as "active neutrality in the search for peace in the region."

Lebanon's cost of living rose 57% in 2 years

BEIRUT, April 20 (R). — Wages in Lebanon need to be raised by 58.6 per cent to keep pace with inflation, according to a trade union sponsored survey published today.

The study was compiled by the Survey and Research Centre, a private firm, at the request of the National Federation of Trade Unions.

It said the overall cost of living in Lebanon rose by 57.59 per cent between March 1975 and March, 1977. Food prices went up by 81 per cent and rents by 80 per cent during the period, the survey added.

Britain, France plan to regulate all shipping in the channel

CHERBOURG, France, April 20 (AFP). — British and French authorities will next month plan how to supervise shipping in the channel when new traffic regulations come into force on July 15, French shipping officials said here today.

The new rules will apply to all vessels from supertankers to shrimp boats and even private yachts. Shipping lanes three miles wide each way will be imposed along three stretches: Off Ushant, off Cherbourg and in the Straits of Dover.

But officials said that, at least generally in the case of large ships, the regulations will mean a single route being taken right along the channel.

Fishing boats and cross-channel vessels are causing rather a problem, officials noted, because from July 15, the up and down lanes can be crossed only at right angles.

This means that fishing boats cannot simply cruise around as they like, and the ferries and hovercraft will cease to go direct from port to port.

On an average day there are some 800 ships in the channel and last year about eight million people used the ferries and hovercraft. Heavy seas and poor visibility are frequent.

One officer in Cherbourg said that navigation in the channel had become more hazardous in recent years, and at the same time crews on some ships were less qualified these days "due to the flags of convenience system."

Shipping will be watched on radar screens by special teams when the new rules come into forces. Officials will have more high-speed launches available to intercept ships guilty of traffic offences and identify them formally.

Guilty companies will be subject to charges in the country of registration, under an international convention.

The experts here believe the number of culprits will fall. Already offences under present rules have declined from 11,241 in 1974 to 7,843 last year, according to French statistics. But only about one-fifth of the offenders are at present being formally identified.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices managed to post a moderate gain Wednesday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average gained nearly four points in brisk trading.

The trend was due to news that the economy's growth accelerated in the first quarter of the year. At the opening, the government reported that the gross national product grew at a 5.2 per cent annual rate.

Advances outnumbered declines at the close by a wide 881 to 523 margin.

Chemicals were steady, as well as automobiles and electronics: RCA gained 1-1/8 at 30-3/8.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 942.59, a gain of 3.82 points; Transp at 240.36, a gain of 2.73; utilities at 108.26, a loss of 0.06. 25,090,000 shares changed hands, of which 5.160,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

... market finished firmer, responding to small interest, dealers ...

The F.T. index was up 4.1 at 412.2. Government bonds firmed up to 3/4 point, with sentiment helped by news of government spending for the last financial year below expectations and hopes to raise interest rates, dealers added.

Interest in equities was relatively more with average gains of 2p to 3p. Gold shares were dull. American and Canadians were generally easier.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at $149.50/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

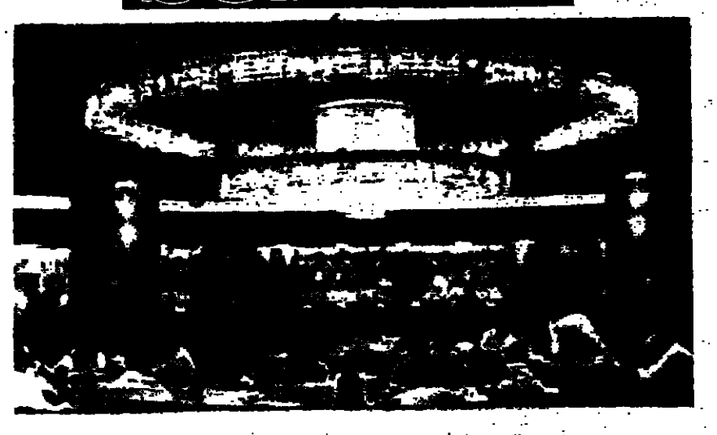
* ADDIS ABABA, April 20 (AFP). — Ethiopia has budgeted over 500 million dollars for the expansion and maintenance of its highway system over the next five years, the Ethiopian road authority has announced. This represents nearly ten per cent more than the country has spent on road building over the past 25 years. The authority said 32 million dollars had already been acquired for the five-year project on a loan from the World Bank. The balance is to be raised at home and through various international lending agencies.

* BRUSSELS, April 20 (AFP). — Negotiations between the European Economic Community (EEC), and the Soviet Union for a long term fisheries agreement have resumed here among experts but a ministerial meeting will probably be necessary. The negociations require the settling of a "political" problem as well as the quantitative aspect. The EEC delegation wants the future agreement to be signed between the EEC as such and the USSR as such. But the Soviet side would prefer signing with individual EEC member countries.

* TOKYO, April 20 (R). — The government yesterday adopted a package of measures calling for more government spending and lower interest rates to help restore the economy, a cabinet spokesman said. The package, agreed by the cabinet council of economic ministers, called for 73 per cent of public works for the fiscal year ending next March, worth 9,970 billion yen (36.2 billion dollars), to be contracted by September.

* CANBERRA, April 20 (AFP). — Australian beef sales to the Middle East, principally Egypt, Iran and Iraq, have risen to the extent that Australia believes it will have a dominant supply position within a few years. The forecast was made by the Middle East representative of the Australian Meat Board, Peter Weymouth, on a visit back in Australia.

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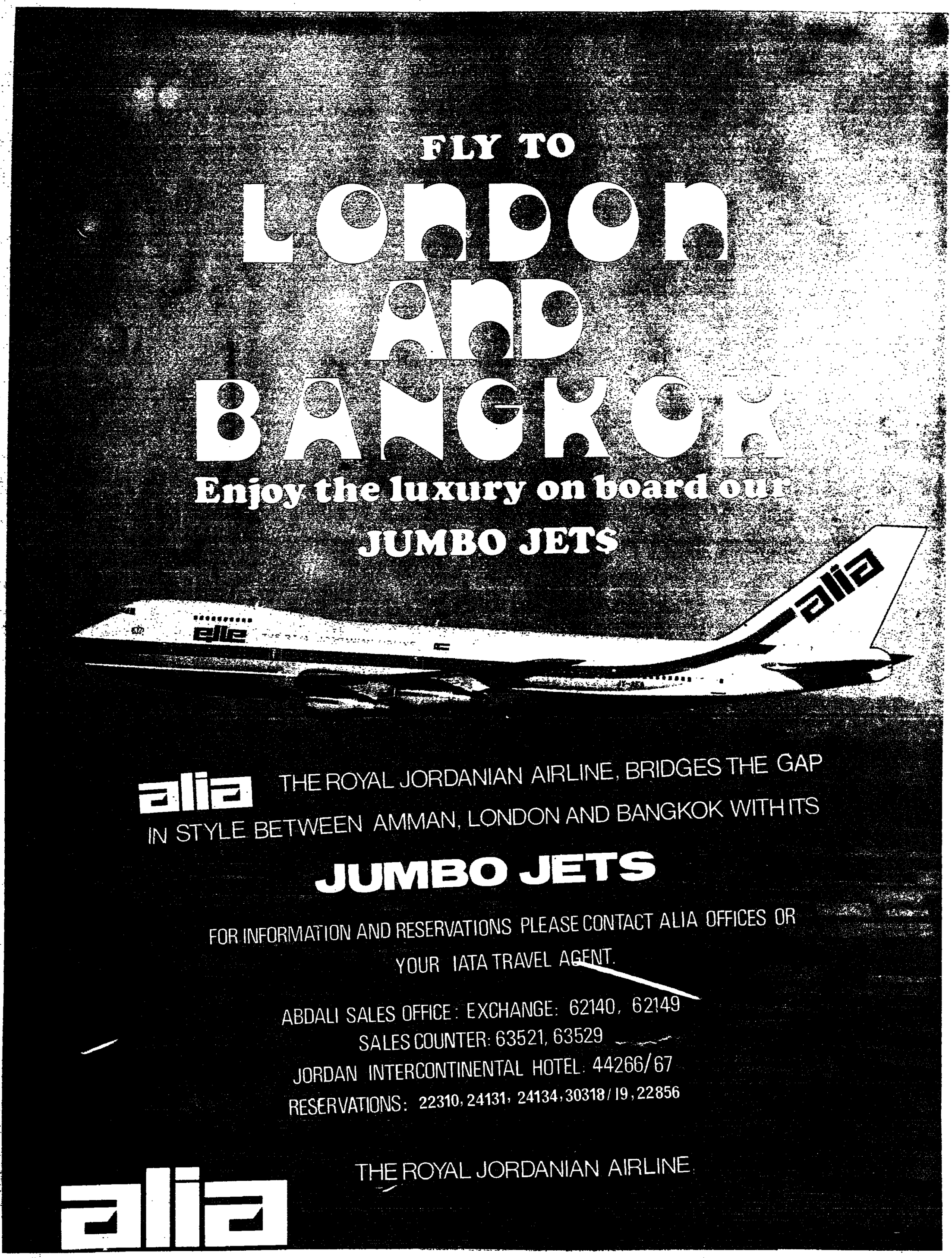
Bellevue Palace Berlin, Residence of Germany's President
National Theatre, Munich
Municipal Theatre, Schweinfurt, West Germany
Theatre of the Kufürstendamm, Berlin
Montparnasse Theatre, Paris
National Theatre, Beograde
Copedi Theatre, Berlin
National Parliament, Beograde
Presidential Mansion, Yugoslavia
Presidential Mansion, Madilain, Colombia
Prime Ministry, Jamaica
National Parliament, Bangkok, Thailand
Palace Beaubarnais, Paris (Residence of the German Embassy)
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J.F.K. Art Centre, Washington
Congress Centre, Springfield, Ill.
Philips General Manager's Office, Brussels
Hang Seng Bank, Hong Kong
State Parliament, Sofia
State Opera House, Vienna
Parliament, Vienna
New Festival House, Salzburg
Motzartium Palace, Salzburg
St. Stephan's Cathedral, Vienna
Theatre Ander, Vienna
German Embassy, Vienna
Swedish Embassy, Vienna
Theatre of Tyrol, Innsbruck
Hotel Bristol, Vienna
Hofburg-Vienna International Congress Centre, Vienna
20th Century Fox Cinema Pretoria, S.A.
Makartsaal, Salzburg
Casino Mirabella, Salzburg
Casino Elizabeth Park, Salzburg
Burg Theatre, Vienna
School of Justice, Schwechat
Town Hall in Tampere, Finland
Association of the Brewery Industry, Vienna
Association of the Butchers, Vienna
Town Hall, Vienna
Moyeuvre, France
Franziskaner Church, Vienna
Yuma Mosque, Durban, S.A.
Ministry of Finance, Vienna
Johannesburg Civic Centre, S.A.
Sheraton Hotel, La Paz
EXPO 1967, Montreal



Agents in Jordan
Queens Place Jabal Hussein

هكذا صدر الأصل

هكذا من الأصل



Sophisticated snow-grooming machinery tailors ideal ski conditions

WASHINGTON (CSM). — Take a ski trail that is scratchy, icy, peppered with bare spots, or knee-deep in hard-to-manage powder, and make it skiable. Take another which has good snow and make that precious "white gold" last longer.

These are the basic tasks of the "snow farmers".

Not too many years ago skiers in most parts of the United States had to cope with inconsistent snow. This was especially troublesome in the East, where there is generally less snow to begin with.

In addition, widely varying Eastern temperatures often cause snow to partially thaw during daytime hours and refreeze at night into anything from an unmanageable crust to a dangerous layer of ice.

In the West the main problems were trail patches worn rough by heavy use, or powder deep enough to make it tough for beginning or intermediate level skiers to negotiate the slopes.

But machinery to move, renovate, or manufacture snow, coupled with the ski owners' realisation they can help Mother Nature provide a better ski season, have changed all that.

Today there is a wide variety of snow grooming machines in use, some of which bear remarkable similarity to farming equipment. There are mogul-planers, disks and fillers, scarifiers and compactors, powder makers, U-blades, rollers, and many more.

With them ski area managers can collect freshly fallen snow and store it until it is needed on their trails. They can bring skied-off snow back to the trails, they can mix new powder with sturdier order snow for longer life, and they can break up extremely hard and thick ice into snow that pleases all but the most avid of powder hounds.

Currently, the use of sophisticated snow grooming machinery and techniques is blossoming into major proportions. Many of the basics for today's technology, however, were developed in various parts of the country two decades ago.

In 1950, quite by accident, Joseph C. Tropeano invented snowmaking. Mr. Tropeano's firm, Larchmont Farms, in Lexington, Massachusetts, was experimenting with equipment which it hoped would cause an artificial cloud to form over Florida orange groves, protecting the fruit from frost on chilly nights.

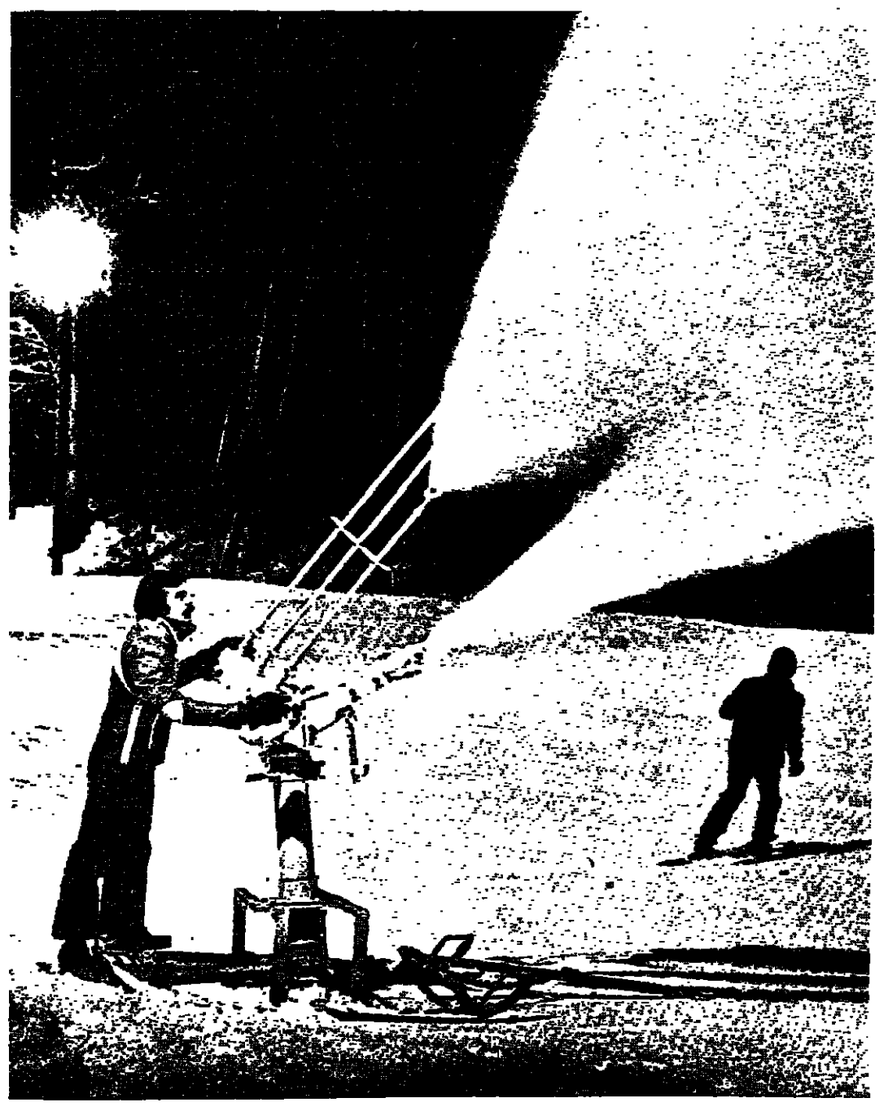
One morning, after leaving the machine on all night, Mr. Tropeano and his associates were surprised to find four feet of artificial snow on the ground. Since then they have introduced snowmaking equipment as ski areas in New England, and this year Mr. Tropeano and others are showing their wares in the Rockies and the Sierras.

At about the same time it was snowing in Mr. Tropeano's mock-up orange grove, Fred Pabst, operator of Vermont's Bromley ski area, had another idea.

He noted that his slopes would require a lot less snow to ski on if there weren't so many stumps, rocks, and gulleys on them for the snow to cover.

Most areas have picked up on Mr. Pabst's ideas in a big way. Each summer ski surfaces are gone over carefully. Stones are removed and runoffs are devised to carry melting snow away quickly before it can damage the area.

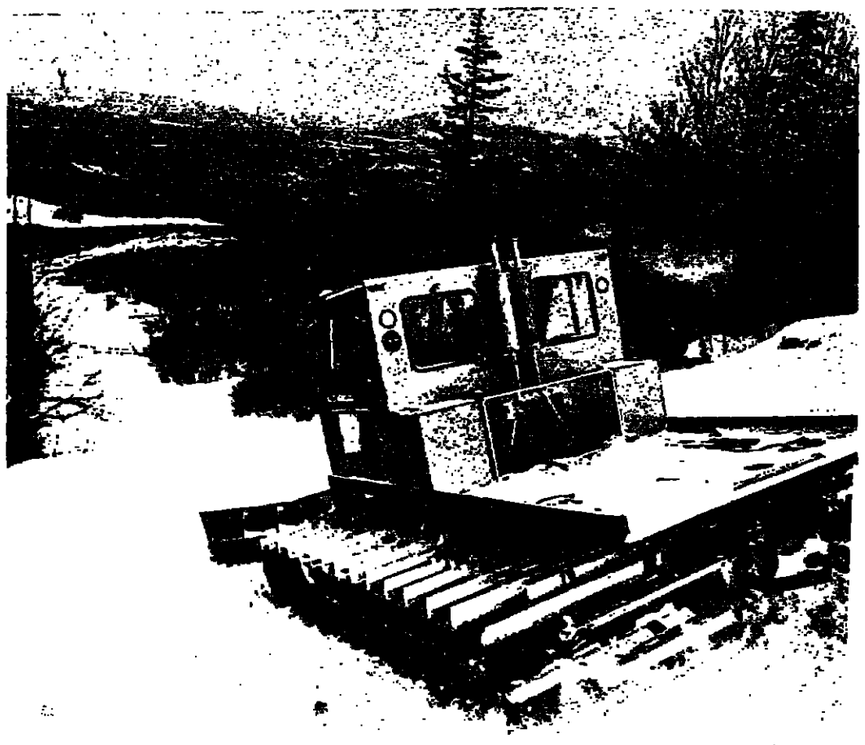
Grass is carefully planted for erosion control, then cut just before the snow comes. Some ski surfaces are even planned at angles that will protect them from the sun's rays.



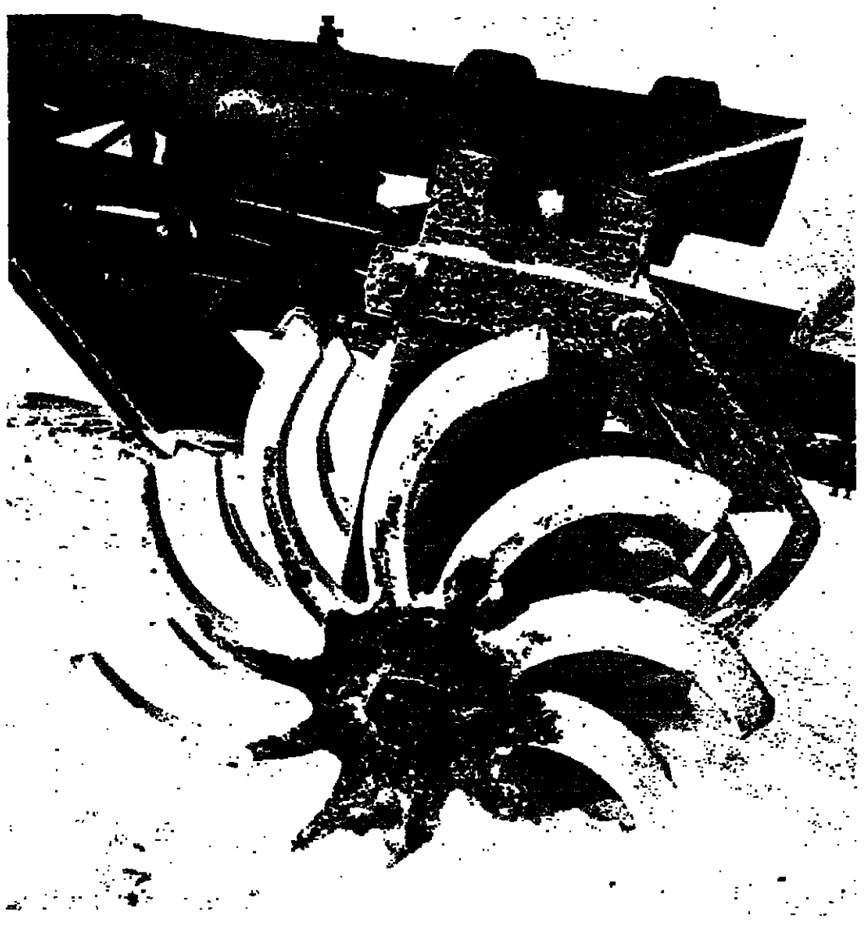
An artificial blizzard sprays from a snow machine at Blue Hills, Massachusetts.



A compactor packs new, powdery snow.



U-blade levels powder on trail at Stratton Mountain, Vermont.



Ice is no match for one of these tillers.

Average Americans struggle to hang onto their houses

One of the great American dreams -- a house-and-yard for every family -- is steadily receding into the mists of fantasy. Inflation is threatening to put the single family residence out of reach of the average American family.

CALIFORNIA (F.T.) — The house-proud American family is suddenly finding itself house-poor. Inflated house prices, soaring property taxes (rates), escalating mortgage interest charges, are making it more and more difficult to buy a new and larger home or even to meet the expenses on an existing one and keep the home for which you may have lived a lifetime.

This is a sharp turnabout in a country where pride in home ownership is deeply ingrained. In the United States about two-thirds of the total population is living in its own home with a mortage. It had, until recently, also become a rule of thumb that every family ought to move to a larger, more expensive home every five years.

Now people are more and more having trouble paying the cost of running the home they already have. In a round up on the subject, the Wall Street Journal told of home owners having to give up trips to Europe, cancelling holiday camps for the children, selling their horses, limiting their entertainment to the back yard, sending the wife out to work, cutting each others' hair. All because of the large hole in the often substantial family budgets made by house running costs.

According to the National Association of Home builders, home owners last year were spending nearly 30 per cent of the total budget for this purpose, up from 23 per cent in 1965. By 1985 the ratio, it was thought, might rise to 35 per cent. At the root of the problem is the soaring price of housing, the result of what some observers call a "panic" to invest in real estate, as the traditional best insurance against inflation.

However, the result has been a fantastic inflation in the price of houses themselves. In the spring of 1976, the median price of a new house in the United States was about $43,000, up $3,700 from a year earlier, and getting on for close to double the median figure for 1970, according to the U.S. department of labour.

Above the median, many families were paying $100,000 and more for houses in developments (known in the U.S. as "tracts"). Individually designed houses were selling in prime locations at anywhere from $200,000 to $500,000

Even with 30-year mortages scheduled to be extended, it's said, to 35 and 40 years -- interest payments on such property were high, and getting beyond the reach of what many householders could afford. Mortage interest rates in the U.S. average around 10 per cent.

A recent survey conducted by Citicorp, the parent of Citibank of New York, showed that only 3.5 per cent of all those questioned were in the market for a new house, down from 6.8 per cent about six months earlier, because the interest and repayment costs have become too high for them.

Such were the problems of would-be house buyers. Even graver difficulties were facing many American families quite satisfied with the houses in which they lived, and with no intention of moving. The price of their property had escalated along with that of all property, and up along with it had climbed property tax assessments, in some cases doubling and tripling in the space of a few years.

The result is that, in the Los Angeles area for example, the biggest housing market in the country, newspapers for months on end have carried letters from indignant readers lamenting that they will have to sell their homes because they can no longer afford to pay the taxes levied on them. Some of the most heartrending have been from older, retired couples, some of them still living in the house they first occupied on marriage.

At meetings called by the authorities, disturbed by the vehemence of the protests, there have been angry scenes, with some of the more militant householders threatening tax strikes. The average rate increase in the county last year was 14.3 per cent, but some homeowners received demands that were 75, 80 even 100 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Everybody agrees that the present state of affairs is outrageous, and even some of the families who are now sitting on property worth up to ten times that they paid for it, depending on how long ago the purchase was made, are beginning to wonder if this is a mixed blessing. According to some commentators, their status has been become rather like that of paupers living in palaces.

The way columnist and T.V. personality Louis Rukeyser sees it, "inflation, as we have seen, threatens to put the traditional house-and-yard beyond the average American family's reach". Adds another commentator, "today, the single family residence is a luxury item. The average working person cannot afford this, so he is going into a cluster (attached housing) development or a mobile home". Condominiums, the alternative accommodation for those who don't want the bother of house and yard care, are now priced way up with single family homes.

What's the solution ? One way out would be a revival of new house building from the worst slump in 40 years. Some signs of this happening are apparent. In July, 1976, new housing starts were running at the annual rate of nearly [illegible] million, according to the department of commerce, which projected they might go to 1.7 million this year and over 2 million in 1978. But even that is below the level of the earlier seventies.

Another proposal is that the federal government should pay part of the mortgage for lower income families, a procedure already in partial use. Another idea is that instead property taxes having to meet the cost of financing state and local education and welfare the burden should be shifted to some other form of taxation.

So far, no one seems to have advocated the solution opted by Great Britain a few years ago, and which effectively pricked the housing inflation bubble there: Limiting the amount of mortgage interest payments which could be set off against personal income tax.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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South vulnerable.
Deals.

NORTH
♠ 5 3
♡ K 10 3
◇ A K 6 4
♣ K J 8 3

WEST: ♠ J 10 6 ♡ 8 6 2 ◇ 7 2 ♣ 10 9 5 2
EAST: ♠ Q 9 8 4 ♡ J 7 5 ◇ 10 8 5 ♣ Q 9 5
SOUTH
♠ K 7 2
♡ A 9 4
◇ Q J 3
♣ A 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♡	Pass	2 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Ten of ♣.

Your first consideration in the play must be to make your contract. South neglected to heed this cardinal principle and paid dearly for it.

The auction was short and sweet. South showed a balanced hand of 13-15 points and North knew exactly where he wanted to play the hand.

West was reluctant to lead from his major suits for fear of presenting South with his fourth trick, so he made the unusual choice of the ten of clubs. Since the lead seemed to mark West with the nine as well, declarer saw he could bring in the whole suit. Without further ado he covered with the jack. East played the queen and declarer won the ace and returned a club. When West followed with the two, declarer guessed the eight. East won the nine and shifted to the nine of spades, netting four tricks in that suit for the defenders. Down one.

Declarer was too hasty in his play to the first trick. With four tricks in diamonds and two in hearts, he needed just three tricks from the club suit for his contract. But more important was the fact that he did not want East to gain the lead. At all costs, he had to prevent a spade lead through the unsupported king!

Declarer could virtually have assured the contract by playing a low club from dummy at the first trick! East cannot gain by putting up the queen (if he does, declarer has at least three quick club tricks), and now declarer simply follows low as well. Unless the ten was singleton, declarer is sure of three club tricks while shutting East out of the lead.

What if West started with four clubs to the Q-10-9? It matters not. In that case, when declarer later plays the ace of clubs, East will show out and the finesse will be marked. If both defenders follow to the ace of clubs, declarer knows the suit will divide 3-2 and he can drop the queen next. Either way, the contract is guaranteed.

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FLECT
RYSAC
NAHZIG
VERGAN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "_____ – _____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNACK TRILL HYMNAL DUPLEX
Answer: What the very young theatrical genius said his work was — "CHILD'S" PLAY

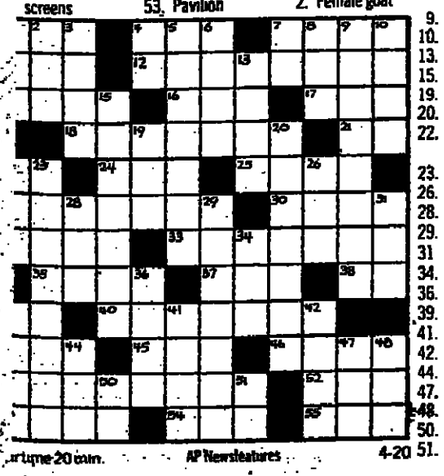
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Curious
5. Government agency
8. Doggerel
12. Opposer
15. Liable to err
16. Pedestal parts
17. Haven
18. John, in Scotland
19. Feared
20. Trade Union
21. News Service: abbr.
22. Grampus
24. Standard
25. East Indian screens
30. Persephone
32. Bedstead support
33. Garment lining fabric
35. The highest official: abbr.
37. Concluded
38. Physician: abbr.
39. Unit of surface of land.
40. Altar screen
43. Poorest part of a fleece
45. Sunken fence
46. Domino
49. Ruffles
52. Miss West
53. Pavilion
54. Wine vessel
55. Town in Minnesota

DOWN
1. Wrong
2. Female goat
3. Convey property
4. About
5. Balmoral and Buckingham
6. Coaster
7. Mixed type
8. West Indian sorcery
9. Click beetle
10. Card
13. Grimace
15. Harness racer
19. Silkworm
20. Duchy
22. Old Siamese coins
23. Manifest
26. — Alamos'
28. Viscous liquid
29. Style of pitching
31. Keen perception
34. Movable cover
36. Membership
39. Sword hilt
41. Ostrich
42. Ditto
44. Sweetened roll
47. Salt
48. Explanation
50. Roadway
51. Continent: abbr.

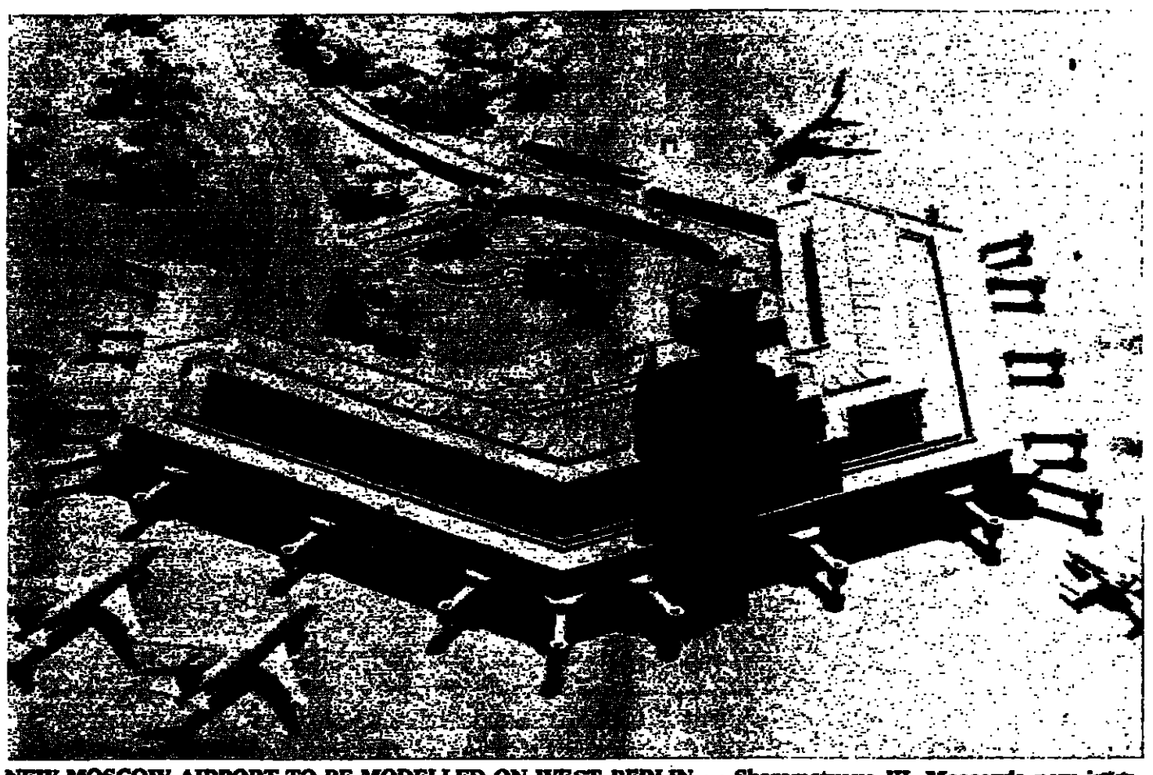
	G	R	A	S	P		S	I	N	C
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G	O		K	E	N		C	O	R	V
O	V	A		W	I	T	H		S	I
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E	L	A	N	D		E	L	I	C	I
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SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

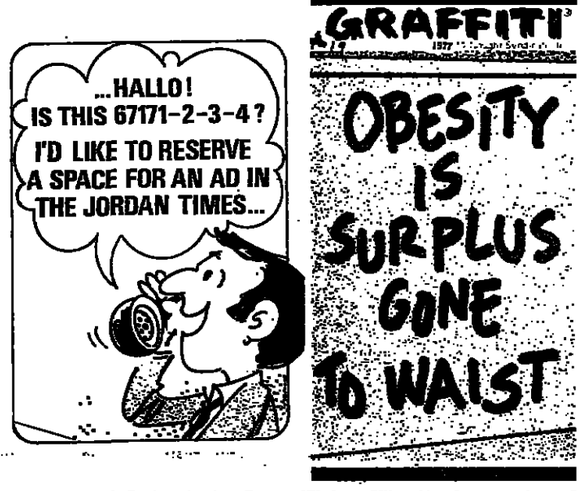


Time: 20 min. AP Newsfeatures 4-20

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



NEW MOSCOW AIRPORT TO BE MODELLED ON WEST BERLIN -- Sheremetyevo III, Moscow's new international airport, will be opened in time for the 1980 Olympics. It is modelled on Tegel airport, West Berlin, which was inaugurated in 1974. Nineteen 'fingers' will point out from a hexagonal terminal building in glass, steel and concrete with white marble flooring. In Tegel passengers can virtually drive in to the check-out point, but Sheremetyevo procedures will be less informal.



TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

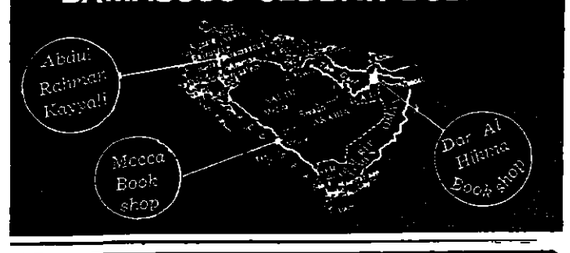
BRADY BUNCH : BIG SPRAIN

Housekeeper sprains her ankle and the Brady children are obliged to do her chores.

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN : U, 509

What will Steve Austin do to quash sailors plot threatening to demolish town unless they receive a large sum of money?

NOW YOU CAN BUY YOUR COPY OF THE JORDAN TIMES IN DAMASCUS - JEDDAH-DUBAI



OUT AND ABOUT

SUITE STEAKHOUSE
Firas Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Luwelbdeh. Tel. 22103/4.
Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte.
Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

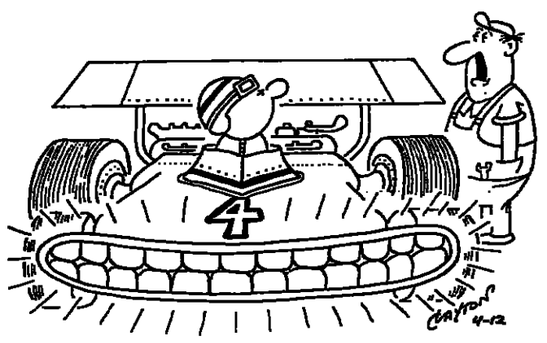
QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luwelbdeh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646 Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinems. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbed.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan.
First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahliyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight.
Also take home service - order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592
Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie.
Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869.
Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
Clayton

"I hear you're sponsored by a toothpaste firm."

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are under excellent influences for making headway and progress. Be precise and thorough in getting together the information you need to put across your talents.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get in touch with an expert who could help you with a plan you have in mind, which could lead to greater success. What you have learned in the past could help you now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Think big if you want to get big since you are thinking very cleverly about money and advancement now. Get in touch with a financial wizard if you are not sure about certain points.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Competition is very keen right now, and rivals seem to come from all corners. Be sure of your facts and present them with confidence.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be more enthusiastic about some plan you have that will improve your life and career. Make wishes a reality with a loved one.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A good time to indulge in social pleasures and renewing friendships. Know what you want and go after it in a clever and positive way.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) An influential person you know can assist you in having more prestige in the community. Follow his advice. Make wise concessions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are surrounded with new opportunities so be alert and take advantage of them. Be active and you will be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your hunches are working fine so be sure to heed them in your dealings with others. Don't issue challenges or ultimatums.

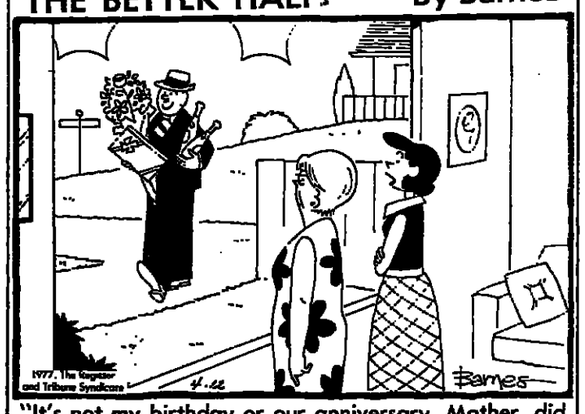
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Listening carefully to associates' ideas can bring better understanding between you. A situation arises that needs to be handled with kid gloves. Be wary of the actions of a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are in a productive mood. Get chores out of the way and get to work on your good ideas. Make needed additions to your wardrobe and improve appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Hobbies are fine, but restrict them to spare hours. Members of the opposite sex are attracted to you and pay favorable compliments.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Help a friend who needs it at this time. Anything you do for others now will come back to you as pure gold. Romance enters the picture.

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"It's not my birthday or our anniversary. Mother, did you just happen to hint that you might be leaving?"

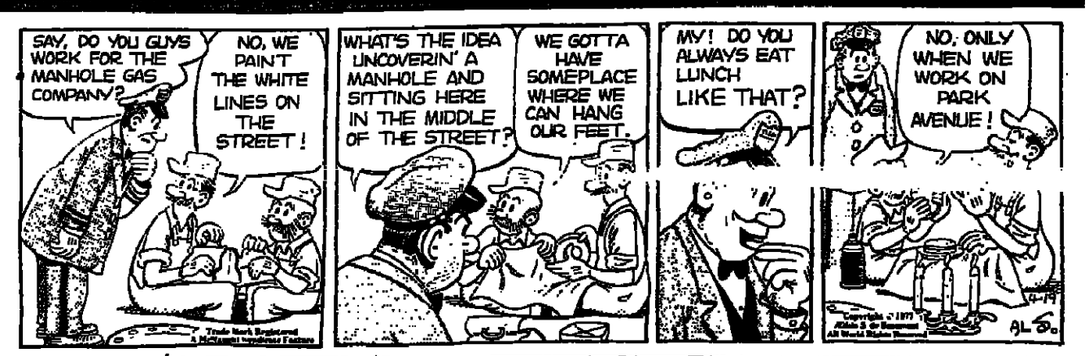
PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



99.1% of votes re-elect Nimeiri for presidency

KHARTOUM, April 20 (R). — Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri has been re-elected head of state for a second six-year term, collecting 99.1 per cent of the votes cast, it was officially announced today.

Maj.-Gen. Nimeiri was unopposed in the election, which began on April 3.

The Sudanese First Vice President, Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Al Baghir, who announced the result over Radio Omdurman, said gen. Nimeiri would be sworn in on May 24.

President Nimeiri, 47, came to power in a bloodless coup in 1969 at the head of a 10-member Revolutionary Council and was sworn in for his first term as president in October 1971.

He was unanimously re-elected last Feb. 1 for a second six-year term as chairman of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), the country's only political party.

In agreeing last October to stand again for presidency, President Nimeiri said he would ask for the total support of the army and at least 80 per cent of the votes.

Earlier last year he decided not to run again, but reversed this decision, saying:" I have made it clear that the next stage needs strength, ability, health and thought. If the masses see that I will be possessing these, then I have no choice but to nominate myself for a second term."

Mugabe, Nkomo reject Owen's proposal that U.S. co-heads Rhodesian constitution talks

LUSAKA, April 20 (AFP). — Rhodesian guerrilla leaders yesterday rejected a British proposal that the United States should co-sponsor a new constitutional conference on Rhodesia.

Mr. Robert Mugabe and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, joint leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), strongly objected to proposals made by British Foreign Secretary David Owen that the U.S. be directly involved in a new Rhodesian settlement attempt.

Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo, who were speaking at a press conference at State House here, said the Rhodesian independence dispute was between Zimbabweans and Britain. "There is no need for us to sit in conference involving the intrusion of the big powers," they said.

But the two leaders, whose movement has been recognised by the south African front-line states -- Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Angola -- to the exclusion of other Rhodesian nationalist groups, said they would accept that the U.S. and, indeed, other governments pressure Britain into solving the Rhodesian issue.

"We totally object to any suggestion that would involve the big powers meddling in Rhodesian affairs," Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nokomo said.

The Patriotic Front leaders said Britain should try to avoid the involvement of the U.S. and other big powers in finding solutions to the Rhodesian problems, which require total commitment and positive decisions.

"There was nothing new and impressive in "the so-called Anglo-American proposals," which Dr. Owen put to them.

"We in fact told him that as far as the Patriotic Front was concerned, we would object to attending any constitutional conference on Rhodesia's independence problem unless the British government put before us definite and positive proposals, which would guarantee transfer of power from the white minority to the Africans of Rhodesia," said Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe.

They would also refuse to attend a conference which might produce a "beautiful constitution" only to be handed over to Rhodesian Premier "Ian Smith to object to or agree with."

The Patriotic Front leaders wanted that any "puppet government" which might be established in Rhodesia would be rushed by the guerrillas under the Patriotic Front, which was now more solid, united and militant than ever before.

Moslem rebels reject Filipino referendum

MANILA, April 20 (Agencies) — The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has publicly rejected the Philippines referendum on an autonomous state saying it did not conform to an agreement between Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and President Ferdinand Marcos.

The MNLF stand was expressed by Dr. Abdurahman Amin, the group's political spokesman, in reply to questions on his arrival here along with three other MNLF leaders, and representatives of the Islamic Conference including Libyan Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Tureiki.

Dr. Amin, a 34-year-old medical practitioner, said : "We have rejected the referendum because it contradicted the letter and spirit of the Tripoli agreement and was not in conformity with the Qadhafi-Marcos agreement."

To another question, he said the MNLF recognised the agreement made last month between President Marcos and Col. Qadhafi -- which among other thing provides for the establishment of autonomy in 13 southern Philippine provinces – "but not the interpretation of the Philippine government."

Counting in the referendum is still going on. But the overwhelming trend so far has been against merger into a single autonomous region of the 13 affected provinces or any control by the MNLF, which ordered a boycott of the polls.

Though voting was compulsory, many people did not vote, especially in Moslem areas.

The Elections Commission, the government agency which supervised the referendum in the 13 provinces said it expects to proclaim official results on Saturday.

Meanwhile, MNLF's chief representative in Zamboanga City, Dr. Tham Manjoorsa, has ordered an inquiry into reports that some rebels did vote in Sunday's referendum, an aide said.

Dr. Manjoorsa's aide, who declined to be identified, said he had no figures on how many might have voted following reports by military sources and local Moslem leaders that some MNLF rebels did vote on Sunday Zamboanga City, which is 840 kms. south of Manila, and in the predominantly Moslem Islands of Sulu and Tawi Tawi farther south.

Some of those said to be members of the MNLF, who however, people known to have gone over to the government side in the past four years.

In a separate development North Yemen today expressed reservations over the referendum.

In a communique, the North Yemeni Foreign Ministry said it believed the vote to be "premature" and "not consistent with the accord" between the Manila government and the MNLF.

The Sana' government, in a communique pointed out, while commenting on the referendum as a member of the Islamic Conference charged with supervising the organisation of the referendum.

200,000 Ethiopians protest against Sudan

ADDIS ABABA, April 20 (R). — The official Ethiopian News Agency reported yesterday that 200,000 people had attended a mass rally in Asmara, capital of Eritrea Province, to protest against what it alleges is intervention by Sudan in the Eritrean fighting.

Head of state Mengistu Haile-Mariam said last week that Sudan had sent troops into Ethiopia. The Ethiopian army is fighting secessionist guerrillas in Eritrea.

The report on the rally in Asmara, which took place on Monday, was carried by Ethiopia's official news agency

The agency said Col. Fikru Wolde-Tensai, administrator of the province and commander of the 25,000 troops there, addressed the rally.

Col. Fikru said Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri was arming Eritrean secessionists and other enemies of the military government to "distract the attention of the oppressed masses of the Sudan from voicing their legitimate demands," the agency said.

Ethiopian forces were teaching the enemies of the broad masses and their reactionary foreign allies an unforgettable lesson, the colonel was quoted as saying.

The guerrillas have been claiming considerable successes in recent weeks. They now claim to surround the town of Keren, less than 100 kms. northwest of Asmara.

Other speakers at the rally demanded arms to answer a "call of the motherland" by the head of state.

Another rally was held in Gondar the agency said, while prison inmates in the Wollo region capital of Dessie, expressed their support for the military government.

Informed sources said the morale of the troops in Eritrea and in the neighbouring province of Gondar on the Sudanese border was proving a major factor in the conflict.

They said Ethiopian garrisons fought hard to defend the border towns of Mettema and Tessenei before they were overrun, leaving several hundred dead.

But in some places in Eritrea, the Ethiopian troops had been pulled out without a fight because of logistic problems in supplying them.

In a separate development, the Ethiopian News Agency reported yesterday that armed civilians in Hararghe Province have "liquidated" 48 "counter-revolutionary bandits."

The bandits were not identified but in the past Ethiopia has accused neighbouring Somalia of arming and training guerrillas operating there. Somalia has territorial claims in Hararghe Province.

Informed sources said a recent convoy of 175 vehicles taking supplies to Gode, in southern Hararghe, frequently came under fire.

International aid work in the province, which is still suffering from the severe drought in 1975, has been badly affected by the security situation.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REJECT KISSINGER

NEW YORK, April 20 (AFP). — New York Columbia University students have organised several protests against the nomination of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as a faculty member.

The "Ad Hoc Committee to Prevent Kissinger Coming" has described the former secretary as "the butcher of Vietnam", committee President Alison Shore said the nomination was not "a problem of academic freedom but of morality."

University President William McGill said the protests would not affect his decision.

European satellite fails

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April 20 (AFP). — The European scientific satellite GEOS, launched here earlier today, failed to reach its planned altitude, a spokesman for the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced. Although all the data were not yet in the mission could be aborted, the spokesman indicated. The first part of the launch went off perfectly, the spokesman said, but there were problems with the firing of the last stage of the launch rocket. The satellite appeared to be at an altitude of about 11,000 kms. rather than around the 36,000 kms. planned for the initial, temporary, orbit, the spokesman said.

A.P., UPI deny charges of news distortion at UNESCO meeting

FLORENCE, Italy, April 20 (R). — The two American news agencies, Associated Press and United Press International, yesterday rejected accusations of systematic distortion of news sent to Latin America.

The accusations came in a paper prepared by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for an international conference here on the flow of information between developing and developed countries.

The paper quoted unnamed researchers as saying the control of news flow into Latin America was "dominated by U.S. wire services that systematically distort through selection and manipulation the image of the world outside to the Latin Americans through their papers."

Associated Press General Executive John Koehler said: "It can be blankly stated that we are not out to distort or belittle developing countries."

Mr. Koehler told participants from some 30 countries the charge was not only nonsense but an insult to Latin American editors.

The second day of the three-day UNESCO conference witnessed a disagreement of views between journalists from countries in the Soviet bloc and other developing nations, led by Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, who felt that news media ought to serve national and state interests, and others, from the United States, Japan, Western Europe, Iran and Australia, who said no government control should be exercised on the press.

Mr. German Ornes, editor of the newspaper El Caribe, in the Dominican Republic, said as a subscriber he had not found the U.S. agencies responsible for deliberate distortion.

But Mr. Ornes said: "Most Latin American governments are not only adversaries but enemies of the press."

He said there was much room for improvement in news flow between countries and urged greater collaboration to this end.

As chairman of yesterday's main session, Mr. Ornes criticised the "governmental orthodoxy" of speakers at Monday's opening who included the Tunisian information secretary and a Philippines Information Ministry official.

Dr. Louis Alberto Sole, of Uruguay, Director General of the Inter-American Association of Broadcasters, said civilisation could not progress "if we only manage to increase the circulation of news prepared on non-democratic governments with no respect for human rights."

He said lack of freedom of expression was a result of the desire of governments to control public opinion to further their own interests.

Dr. Sole said news should circulate with absolute freedom. He urged UNESCO to act in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promote the existence of multiple international news agencies free from government influence.

Mr. Amir Taheri, editor-in-chief of the Iranian newspaper Kayhan, said some Third World countries did not allow in foreign journalists and even kept their population figures secret.

"We must realise that if some countries governments do not want to inform their own people, let alone others," he said.

"We should not allow countries to propagate the idea that there is nothing wrong with them and to blame everything on the foreign press," he added.

Mr. Hamid Barrada, a Moroccan working for the weekly Jeune Afrique, said a genuine journalist was moved by the desire to tell the truth.

Warn of possible U.S., USSR surprise attacks

Chinese generals publicly demand better weapons

PEKING, April 20 (R). — China's generals have warned the country that it is lagging behind in the arms race and called strongly for better weapons.

They made their views public in a series of articles broadcast over Peking Radio, which gave details of Soviet and American missile strength. The articles were written by groups from the different military units.

"There is the possibility of their (the Soviet Union and the United States) launching a surprise attack on us at any time ..." one article says. While enemies are sharpening their knives, we have to sharpen ours."

Analysts who have studied the transcripts have been struck by their blunt, urgent tone and say they reflect the military's determination to modernise the poorly-equipped, 3 million-strong People's Liberation Army.

The moderate leadership of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng has pledged to build up the "the great wall" -- the army. But after the natural disasters and political turmoil of last year, observers doubt the economy can withstand a dramatic increase in defence spending.

Playing down the Maoist concept of a people's army, the articles use quotes from Karl Marx's collaborator, Friedrich Engels, to justify the need for sophisticated weapons.

"Engels pointed out that the victory of violence is won on the basis of the production of weapons, one article said.

"We should not remain at the present level of equipment," another article said. China should not be bullied by others, it adds.

This article was written by soldiers of the Canton Garrison, whose commander, Gen. Hsu Shih-yu, is an influential Politburo member and key figure in the military hierarchy.

Carter wants Senate's approval of $1,000m military aid to Turks

WASHINGTON, April 20 (AFP). — The Carter administration has decided to seek Senate approval of the Ford administration's agreement to provide Turkey with $1,000 million in military aid in exchange for the renewed right to use 25 U.S. military installations and bases in Turkey.

The agreement, signed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last year, calls for supplying the aid over a five year period.

Congress strongly opposed the deal. When Mr. Jimmy Carter became president last January, his administration asked the Senate to defer examination of the agreement until he had reviewed Eastern Mediterranean policy.

The Senate will be asked tomorrow to ratify the agreement, a well-informed source disclosed, and to allocate $200 million in aid to Turkey this year.

But the administration is not in a hurry to have the Senate vote on the issue, the source said. A majority of senators remain hostile as long as Turkey has not made concessions concerning Cyprus.

Administration leaders hope recent negotiations over Cyprus have softened the opposition, and that it will be further softened by concluding an agreement to extend $700 million in military aid to Greece in five years. A tentative agreement on this issue was negotiated by the Ford administration.

USSR supports Cypriot settlement

NICOSIA, April 20 (Agencies). — A senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official said here yesterday his government continued to support a peaceful settlement of the Cypriot problem which maintained the island's territorial integrity, Cyprus News Agency (CNA) reported.

The official, Mr. Vassili Grubyakov, head of a European Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry ended three days of talks here yesterday with Cypriot Foreign Minister John Christophides.

An official communique on the talks described them as covering "recent developments in the Cyprus problem, relations between the two countries and international problems of common interest."

In an airport statement before leaving for Moscow yesterday, Mr. Grubyakov told CNA his government would continue to support a peaceful settlement of the Cypriot problem based on maintaining the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the island state.

Mr. Grubyakov had also visited the Turkish sector of the island for talks with leaders of the "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus."

Of the difference in viewpoint between the two communities in the island, Mr. Grubyakov said he considered the Turkish-Cypriots "are working, towards, in the long-term, a solution of the Cypriot crisis."

CNA yesterday reported, in a separate development, that the Cyprus Refugee Committee yesterday accused the Turkish army of stepping up restrictions on Greek-Cypriots in areas of the island under its control.

It said efforts were being made to force Greek-Cypriot villagers in the Karpass Peninsula to abandon their homes.

The committee was also quoted as saying that Turkey was sending more settlers from the mainland to the Turkish-held parts of Cyprus.

Dioxin gas still active near Milan

MILAN, April 20 (AFP). — Fifteen additional small areas that have been found to be contaminated by dioxin are to be sealed off, the newspaper Corriere Della Sera reported today.

These areas, including orchards and fields, are at Cesano Maderno between Milan and Seveso, where a cloud of the defoliating chemical dioxin escaped from a factory last summer.

Analysis of soil samples by a laboratory in Zurich showed that these zones were contaminated as badly as the area close to the factory evacuated ever since the catastrophe because of the health hazard, the paper said.

At Desio, the Milan suburb near Seveso, the mayor has closed three polluted zones.

Politics lies behind doings of "Flash Fred"

LONDON, April 20 (R). — A man took part in a blackmail plot to obtain £1 million from the Oppenheimer family only as a "cover plan" to get information for an anti-apartheid group in Britain, his lawyer said yesterday.

Mr. John Mortimer said his client, 51-year-old Mr. Kenneth Wyatt, only went along with the plot because he wanted information about a reputed South African campaign to discredit the Liberal Party in Britain.

Mr. Wyatt appeared in the Central Criminal Court here with four others accused of plotting with a Lebanese, Mr. Fouad Abu Kamel, known as "Flash Fred".

Mr. Mortimer said Mr. Wyatt had been contacted by anti-apartheid groups in England and Spain anxious to find the connection between the Oppenheimer's giant South African gold and diamond firm, Anglo-American Corporation (AAC), and the South African government.

Earlier the court heard how threatening letters and wreaths had been sent to members of the Oppenhemier family by the five who were recruited by Mr. Abu Kamel, at present living in Spain.

Mr. Wyatt, Miss Jacqueline Holborough, 29, Miss Anita Sasin, 20, Mr. John Malcolm, 29, and Mr. Graham Stanford, 20, have all denied charges of conspiring with Mr. Abu Kamel to demand money with menaces and conspiring to assault persons connected with AAC.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* BRUSSELS, April 20 (AFP). — Belgium's outgoing Social Christian Premier Leo Tindemans is expected to form a new coalition with the Socialist Party, giving him two-thirds of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Political sources said the alliance would enable Mr. Tindemans to push through highly controversial proposals to give Brussels a regional status independent of either Belgium's French-speaking or Flemish regions.

* SAN SALVADOR, April 20 (R). — Urban Marxist guerrillas yesterday kidnapped El Salvador's foreign minister and demanded the release of 37 of their arrested comrades in exchange for him. Although the government stayed silent about the kidnapping, eyewitnesses said Foreign Minister Mauricio Borgonovo Phol was seized by several men as he left his home west of the capital for his office. The so-called Popular Liberation Forces, issued a communique saying they had abducted the minister and demanded the release of 37 of their arrested comrades.

* GENEVA, April 20 (AFP). — A three-man delegation from the International Red Cross has for the first time been allowed to visit prisons in Iran, the organisation announced here today. The delegation, which includes a doctor, began its tour of prisons on Monday. Permission for the visits was given following a March 6 meeting in Tehran between the Shah of Iran and International Red Cross President Alexander Hay.

* ABU DHABI, April 20 (R). — Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak left here today for Khartoum after delivering a message from President Anwar Sadat to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nhaiyan.

* MADRID, April 20 (AFP). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will come here in the second half of May to take part in the first joint ministerial meeting on the Spanish-American Council, officials announced today. The council was set up under the Spanish-American Treaty. The Spanish delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Aguirre.

* VIENNA, April 20 (R). — Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said yesterday a recent arms sale from neutral Austria to Syria would not be discussed during his visit to Syria next month. Dr. Kreisky told a press conference that discussions with Syrian government officials would include the problem of a Middle East settlement and a strengthening of relations between Austria and Syria. He did not expect the Syrian government to raise the arms issue.

* BAGHDAD, April 20 (R). — An Iraqi Baath Party delegation left here today for Moscow for a visit at the invitation of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. The Iraq News Agency said the delegation was headed by Mr. Hikmat Ibrahim who announced that the delegation would have talks on a protocol for closer cooperation between the two parties.

* DAKAR, April 20 (AFP). — Senegal has agreed to make Dakar headquarters of the 12-month old African Islamic Coordination Council and to give full diplomatic immunity to Islamic missions, under an agreement signed today. The council founded in May last year in Nouakchott aims to sponsor a plan of action to coordinate the activities of African Moslem associations.

Who is this shadowy figure behind Idi Amin?

NAIROBI, April 20 (AFP). — A quiet-mannered Englishman often seen in President Idi Amin's entourage seems to be acquiring an increasingly important role in Uganda, according to a lengthy expose published here.

He is Mr. Bob Astles, a former British soldier, pilot and one-time foreman of a road engineers firm in colonial Uganda, now officially described as President Amin's Adviser on British Affairs but, writes the mass-circulation monthly Trust, it is clear his real job is something much more.

"Mr. Bob" refers to himself as the Ugandan leader's "odd job man" but observers of the Ugandan scene have for long been intrigued by this "eminence grise", who is never far from President Amin in public, Trust writes. The two men now meet practically every day.

One of Mr. Astles' jobs has been to act as an unofficial ambassador, another is to look after the president's public relations. He also leads a discreet and highly effective personal intelligence service for him.

In the latter role he keeps President Amin up to date on the minutest activities of his enemies, in Uganda as well as in the outside world, and this side of his activities is without doubt the one most appreciated by President Amin, Trust says.

It credits Mr. Astles with having uncovered last February's plot to overthrow President Amin.

The Englishman's wife -- a second marriage -- is Miss Mary Senkatuka, a Ugandan Cambridge University graduate who has risen swiftly through the civil service to become minister of cultural affairs and community development.

But Trust points out, Mr. Astles' position of high influence close to the president is not without its dangers, and several high-ranking army officers are known to be gunning for him. According to the magazine, threats on his life forced him last July to flee to Kenya across Lake Victoria in a small motor boat.

Behind Mr. Astles' hasty departure lay hostility he had accumulated through an inquiry into allegations of corruption which Field Marshal Amin had ordered him to head.

When he returned to Kampala some weeks later it was with his influence over Mr. Amin seemingly greater than ever, according to Trust.

Naturalised as a Ugandan citizen three years ago, Mr. Astles is fond of stressing his attachment to his country of adoption and to President Amin.

Mr. Astles is a slightly-built white-haired man from Ashford in Kent. He arrived in Uganda after the World War II after a spell in Ghana. He worked on various Ugandan government road-building projects while in his spare time taking an interest in youth organisations where he won the friendship of many young Africans who were to become important men in post-independence times.

When Uganda became independent in 1962, he was appointed by Prime Minister (subsequently President) Milton Obote as a public relations adviser and assumed a shadowy role in Mr. Obote's security services. He eventually fell from favour and moved to a farm he acquired on the shores of Lake Victoria. By 1965 he had attached himself to Mr. Idi Amin, then a colonel with growing influence in the Ugandan armed forces.

During the Congo crisis, Col. Amin was responsible for liaison between Uganda and the rebel government in Stanleyville (now Kisangani) and Mr. Astles served as his pilot on missions into Congo.

When Col. Amin was questioned by a government commission inquiring into allegations of illegal trafficking in gold and ivory from the war-ravaged Congo, Mr. Astles on the future president's behalf, testified that his flight log-book had been stolen. They have worked together ever since.

